

LOXWOOD MEDICAL PRACTICE

Your partner for a healthier future

SEPTEMBER 2020 OUR NEWSLETTER KEEPS YOU INFORMED OF UPDATES OR CHANGES TO PRACTICE WORKING

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A MESSAGE FROM DR EMMA WOODCOCK

It is with great sadness that I have decided to resign from my position as a partner at the surgery.

I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to be one of your doctors for the last two decades and to have been made so welcome by the village.

Whilst I had no intention of leaving the practice at this stage in my career, the last two years have been particularly challenging for me. Having additionally developed some medical problems of my own, I feel that this is the right time to reduce my work commitments and spend more time with my family.

I am confident that the fantastic team at the practice will continue to offer the community excellent care and I wish all of you the very best for the future.

EMMA



THANK YOU

The GP Partners, and all staff would like to send their warmest wishes to Emma for her future and to thank her for her dedication and commitment to the care of the local community.

GP TEAM

We are delighted to inform you that Dr Louise Smy who has been a salaried GP for the last year, will become a Partner in October. The team will also be joined on a



permanent basis by Dr Tim McEwen who has accepted the position of salaried GP. Therefore our new GP Team is;
Dr John Mitchinson
Dr Mark Piper
Dr Louise Smy
Dr Tim McEwen
Dr Gwen Cameron-Blackie.

FLU CLINICS

Our doctors would like to inform you that our annual flu clinics will take place here at the surgery on Saturdays 26th and 17th October, between 8.30am and 1.00pm.

Due to the increased demand for flu vaccines this year, combined with the Department of Health securing all additional supplies of flu vaccines to help them manage the current pandemic, we have had to alter the way we administer the vaccine to match our supply.

We are committed to providing flu vaccinations throughout the season and will add additional clinics as we receive supplies.

PROTECT YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND THOSE YOU CARE FOR. HAVE A FLU JOB!

For up to date information visit our website or Facebook page.

To help protect our staff and patients follow these instructions when attending your appointment;

- Arrive on time, not early or late.
- Wear a face covering.
- Use the hand sanitiser.
- Follow the one way system in and out of the building.
- Wear short sleeves, remove coats or jumpers and LEAVE them in your car.
- DO NOT bring ANY type of bag with you.
- Exit immediately.

The dispensary WILL NOT be open.

There has been much media attention regarding the flu vaccination programme this year and we can confirm that at this stage we will **not** be vaccinating anyone who is between 50 and 64 years of age unless they meet the strict criteria that is in place each year.

We would like to thank you for your cooperation and understanding and request that you treat all of our staff with respect while they do their best to care and assist you.

You could ask your local pharmacy who may be able to administer a flu vaccination for you. There may be a charge for this.

Visit our website for lots of information www.loxwoodmedicalpractice.co.uk

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Inside this issue page 2: ● APPROPRIATE USE OF SERVICES ● ONLINE HEALTHCARE INFORMATION



WE ARE A GP SURGERY

We are starting to move working processes into Phase 3 of the Covid-19 pandemic. You will start to see a change in access to certain services here, but there is no immediate plan to go back to 'the way it used to be' before the pandemic hit.

This is by no means a reason to not seek our services or ask for help and advice, our doctors, nurses and administration teams continue to work extremely hard in very difficult conditions and will offer help where they can and if it is appropriate. Please remember we are not a walk-in centre or an accident and emergency department and you need to have an appointment to speak to a doctor or nurse. We are able to see some minor injuries but only if we have appointments available. If your medical problem is better suited to a different NHS service you will be directed to attend one of these, for example;

Haselmere Minor Injuries Unit 01483 782 334
 Horsham Minor Injuries Unit 01403) 227000 ext 7202
 Both are open Monday to Friday 9.00-5.00pm.



You may be advised to call an ambulance or attend A&E, please follow the advice you are given, this is for your safety.



NHS BETTER HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

At the moment the clinicians are prioritising our most vulnerable and poorly patients, with their main focus to build a 'recovery' phase back to more normal appointments and the monitoring of long term conditions, this will take some time and there is a back-log of work. We therefore encourage you to look at NHS health resources online visit; <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/> If you have any non-urgent queries submit an econsult. Remember when submitting a request for a telephone call back to include your number and a suitable time when you are free to take the call.



NHS England have launched the 'Better Health' campaign we would like to encourage all of our adult patients to participate. For many, the past few months have been a wake-up call, with people realising how precious their health is and recognising that it is time to change or get back on track. Stoptober will return for the month of October with the primary aim to encourage smokers to attempt to quit for the whole month and beyond. If you can quit for 28 days you are five times more likely to quit for good.

You can sign up to the 'Living Well' courses which are available locally. Contact their team at Horsham, Crawley and Mid Sussex on 01403 227000 ext. 7547, or email sc-tr.epp@nhs.net www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/livingwell If you need help with your Mental Health our GPs can refer you to many specialists, but for non-urgent or general advice visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/



STAY ALERT ► CONTROL THE VIRUS ► SAVE LIVES