

## **Covid-19 Update July 13, 2021**

Throughout the pandemic, we have strived to make the surgery as safe as possible for all our patients and staff and we will continue to do so going forward.

Over the past few months, we have started to open up more services to our patients and we want to restore as many of our services as quickly and as safely as possible. This will involve more patients visiting the practice and this must be done in a safe way to protect our patients and staff.

Many of the patients who need to visit the practice have varying degrees of immunosuppression and are clinically extremely vulnerable. Despite having both vaccinations some of these patients will not be fully protected.

We have a duty to safely treat all of our patients and therefore we want to provide as many additional services as possible whilst still being able to safely treat our vulnerable patients. **From the 19th July** nothing will change at the surgery – we respectfully request that patients continue to wear a mask, socially distance and use hand sanitiser in the surgery and staff will continue to wear PPE.

We are asking that all visitors to the building continue to wear masks or face coverings when entering the building, moving around the building and whilst in the waiting room. Clinicians may ask you to remove them during consultations; any removed during a consultation should be replaced when leaving the consulting room unless there are special circumstances.

This is going to become even more important as we enter the winter season and the circulation of airborne viruses and infections increase. For patients who do not want to wear a mask in the practice we ask that they contact us prior to their appointment in order that arrangements can be made for them to be seen safely.

In terms of opening up, as many of you know, we have never been shut and in fact have consulted with much higher numbers of patients than we did pre-covid 19 (face to face, by phone, by eConsult and by video), not counting vaccinating majority of the adult population twice in the last 6 months.

We have come so far in trying to minimise the impact of Covid-19 and we are sure you understand that we need to keep the surgery as safe for ALL patients and staff as we can.

We will keep all of this under regular review and thank you once again for your assistance and support.

**Andrew Cornell**  
**Practice Manager**