**ABINGDON MEDICAL PRACTICE**



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 **NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2023**

***STAFF CHANGES***

Dr Dharshika Srikantharajah has left the practice in December 2022. She is now based in a GP practice closer to home. Dr Hajra Siraj will be looking after her patients until the practice employs a new salaried GP.

Dr Lilian Swan will be going on maternity leave in April 2023. The practice is actively looking for GP maternity cover.

The practice welcomes

a new GP registrar – Dr Sarah Bell who will be working with our team until August 2023.

***APPOINTMENTS***

The practice offers a mixture of telephone appointments as well as face to face appointments, depending on patients’ choice.

We continue to offer a telephone triage with the Practice Nurse for emergencies on the day.

Our patients have been receiving sms invitations containing AxxuRx link to book various appointments in the practice. AccuRx is an NHS approved easy-to-use platform where patients and healthcare professionals communicate.

Please do not hesitate and book your appointments via AccuRx links when invited by the practice’s clinicians.

***SPRING 2023 COVID-19 BOOSTER CAMPAIGN***

It is anticipated that the Spring 2023 COVID-19 Booster Campaign will commence early April 2023 with vaccination in Care Homes with all other eligible cohorts to be vaccinated from late April 2023.

Eligibility:

• adults aged 75 years and over - this includes those who turn 75 years old by 30th June 2023

• residents in a care home for older adults

• individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in the Green Book (tables 3 and 4).

***PRACTICE LIST SIZE AND CATCHMENT AREA***

In the past year the practice list size has slightly dropped. We will be increasing the practice’s catchment area.

We accept new registrations and we encourage new patients to register with us!

**MISSED APPOINTMENTS**

During the months of December (104) January (80) and February (70), a total of 254 patients failed to attend their appointment. Please contact the surgery if you are unable to attend your appointment.

You can also cancel appointments by texting your Date of Birth and appointment details to 07385543698.

Repeated DNA (did not attend) offenders may be removed from the Practice list.

***WEST LONDON ENHANCED ACCESS HUBS***

The Enhanced Access HUBs within the Royal Borough of K&C offer our locally registered patients additional access to services in the evenings, weekends and bank holidays.

Range of appointments can be provided and our GP practice can refer you into including:

\* GP Appointments

\* Nursing Appointments

\* Blood Tests

\* Medication Reviews

\* Cervical Screening

\* Childhood Immunisations

\* Wound Care

\* Physiotherapy

To be referred into this service, please enquire about the Enhanced Access HUBs with our GP reception team and they will be able to assist you.

Our Local HUBs:

* **St Charles Centre for Health & Wellbeing – Integrated Care Centre,** Exmoor St, London, W10 6DZ
* **The Violet Melchett Health Centre,** 30 Flood Walk, London, SW3 5RR

**Opening Times:** **Mon-Fri: 18:30-21:00** and **Sat-Sun: 08:00-20:00.**

**As part of Winter Pressures Access programme, depending on availability, we can also offer appointments at the Earls Court Health and Wellbeing Centre.**

***CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS***

The NHS in London will be launching a campaign later this month urging parents to get their child fully up to date with their routine vaccinations.

Vaccination rates for children have been falling in London in recent years, and this was further exacerbated by the pandemic. We need to maintain a high level of vaccine uptake across the population to reduce the risk of outbreaks and the potentially serious impacts on children’s health.

There will be particular focus on MMR and polio vaccination.

***EASTER OPENING TIMES AND MAY BANK HOLIDAYS***

We will be closed on Friday 7th and Monday 10th April due to the Easter weekend. We will also be closed on May Bank Holidays: Monday 1st, Monday 8th and Monday 29th May.

Please ensure you have ordered your repeat prescriptions well in advance.

***ZERO TOLERANCE***

We value and care for our staff. We would like to ask that they are treated with courtesy and respect.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff who are working under a great deal of pressure.

***PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP***

The future PPG meetings will be held in July and in October 2023. If you would like to join our PPG group, please leave your details with the surgery Reception team and the Practice Manager will contact you.

***ONLINE ACCESS***

If you are registered with the Abingdon Medical Practice, please complete the Online Assess Request form which you can find on the practice’s website (please go to online services) to request access to our online services such as record access/cancelling and prescription requests.

Further facilities will be made available once you have registered.