**ABINGDON MEDICAL PRACTICE**



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**NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN/WINTER 2021/2022**

***WE ARE HERE FOR YOU WHEN YOU NEED US***

Our GP practice is busier than it has ever been following the easing of lockdown, but we want to reassure you that whilst we continue operating slightly differently, we are here for you when you need our help. Whilst we continue to offer routine appointments by telephone, if you need to be seen face to face, this is available following a telephone triage with a GP. If a GP determines that you need to be seen face to face, you will be invited down to the practice to see the doctor at a time most suitable to you and the GP. As numbers of positive Covid-19 cases remain very high, this measure is to minimise risk to you and to other patients. We understand that things may be difficult for our patients at the moment, but they are also difficult for our staff. Please be kind to our staff.

***STAFF CHANGES***

Dr Lilian Swan continues to provide Dr Srikantharajah’s maternity leave cover until September 2022.

The practice welcomes the new Practice Nurse Smeralda De Lucia.

GP registrar - Dr Siti Patawari - will be leaving the practice in November 2021. The practice will be welcoming a new GP registrar in January 2022.

***FLU***

We have been running our flu clinics from early September. Please book an appointment by phoning 020 7795 8470. We are holding clinics Monday-Saturday.

Flu vaccines are being given by the Practice Nurse and the HCA. Please arrive on time, not too early. You will be required to wear a face covering unless you are exempt from doing so. Roll up your sleeve ready, keep 2 metres away from other patients, use the hand sanitiser provided.

An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to help protect against flu. Vaccination has been shown to have many benefits including **reducing the risk of flu illnesses, hospitalizations** and even the risk of flu-related death in children.

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***COVID 19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME***

If you are eligible to receive Covid-19 vaccination booster, you will be contacted to make an appointment. You cannot have the booster until at least 6 months after your last Covid-19 vaccination. You will receive a text or email, giving details of how to book a booster appointment online at the Violet Melchett or St Charles Vaccination Centres. Please let us know if you are housebound and we will add you to the Covid-19 home visiting service’s waiting list.

If you wish to book 1st or 2nd dose of Covid-19 vaccination, please phone the practice and our staff will book appointment for you in the local vaccination centre of your choice. You should wait 8 weeks after having 1st Covid vaccination in order to have 2nd dose.

Healthy 12–15-year-olds are being vaccinated through school immunisations team and this programme is subject to full consent protocol which is being managed by schools. Healthy 12- to 15-year-olds will be offered one dose of the vaccination.

12-15-year-olds with underlying health conditions have been offered vaccinations through their GP practice.

***COVID 19 VACCINATION***

***STATUS***

GPs cannot provide letters showing your Covid-19 vaccination status. Please use the NHS App in order to get your vaccination status, or call 119.

For more information please visit [**gov.uk/demonstrating-your-vaccine-status**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/demonstrating-your-covid-19-vaccination-status-when-travelling-abroad)

Please note if your Covid-19 vaccine was administered abroad, even if entered by your GP practice in your medical record, this will not show in the NHS app. Only vaccines administered in the UK will show in the NHS app. Please access your online record via TPP in order to access your vaccination record entered by the practice.

Please visit the practice news section on our website for more information.

***GP PATIENTS SATISFACTION RESULTS – OUTSTANDING RESULTS***

The GP Patient Survey results for 2021 have been published by the CCG. The results were positive for West London practices, with all metrics scoring higher than the London average and all but one metric scoring higher than NWL CCG. The results for West London practices have been analysed, and are shown in news section on the practice’s website. There are only 2 practices, including Abingdon Medical Practice, out of 40 practices in the CCG who achieved full (green) satisfaction rating across all of the 18 areas.

***PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP***

The PPG is a great way to understand more about what goes on in your practice. We do three interactive sessions a year where you can understand a little more about the services that the Abingdon Medical Practice offers our patients. For the safety of our patients and staff during the current pandemic the meetings are taking place online. The group is open to all patients; please contact reception if you are interested in joining.