



Dear all,

December 2020

As we approach Christmas and the New Year, we would like to take a few moments to reflect on how to keep safe during this period and to update you with planning for the start of our COVID vaccination programme.

Firstly the important message is that whilst COVID in the community has been relatively low, compared to other parts of the country, nevertheless it is still circulating and infecting people. We cannot be complacent and need to continue to follow all of the NHS England guidance to protect ourselves and others.

Please maintain social distancing, remember to wear a mask, wash your hands regularly and keep homes well ventilated. Try to maintain, as much as possible, (2m) distancing in the home if you are inviting people into your Christmas bubble, always remembering hands, face, space and fresh air.

To help reduce the spread of infections in your homes over Christmas, have a look at the Germ Defence website [www.germdefence.org/index.html?src=L82022](http://www.germdefence.org/index.html?src=L82022) - If this link does not open when you click on it, please copy and paste it into your web browser.

### Christmas Opening Times

If you need medical advice during the Christmas period, visit our website or NHS 111, or go onto the LIVI app or contact your local pharmacy. During the days we are open, if necessary, you can phone the Surgery and one of our receptionists will do their best to book you in with the most appropriate health professional. Our opening days and times are:

	Surgery	LIVI
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Christmas Eve	Normal Hours	Close at 8pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 - Christmas Day	Closed	8am-4pm
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 - Boxing Day	Closed	8am-4pm
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Closed	8am-4pm
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Closed	Normal Hours
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Normal Hours	Normal Hours
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Normal Hours	Normal Hours
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020 – New Year's Eve	Normal Hours	Close at 8pm
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021 – New Year's Day	Closed	Close at 8pm
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2021	Closed	Normal Hours
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2021	Closed	Normal Hours
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Normal Hours	Normal Hours

### **LIVI Update**

LIVI GPs are all GMC-registered NHS-GPs, who (with your consent) are able to access your medical records and give a considered, in-depth diagnosis based on your medical history. Free of charge, over 1500 of our patients have already signed up for LIVI and the feedback has been very positive. You can download the LIVI app via the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android), or visit their website <https://bit.ly/32S8HCz>.

Of course, in medical 'life threatening' emergencies, please continue to call 999. Alternatively call 111 when the surgery and LIVI are closed.

### **Flu Vaccination Update**

Great news, a record 5,000 plus Old Bridge Surgery patients have been vaccinated against the flu this year. If you are eligible and haven't been vaccinated yet, please contact the surgery to book your appointment as soon as possible, especially as we head into January when traditionally flu starts to circulate. With COVID circulating too, protecting the community is critical to ensure that we keep our communities safe and help to reduce the winter pressures on the surgery and the NHS in general.

### **COVID Vaccination Update**

Unfortunately due to the characteristics of the Pfizer vaccine, which restricts transportation across multiple locations across the UK, we are currently unable to administer this vaccine at the surgery. We are however working with 9 local surgeries, part of the East Kernow Primary Care Network (PCN), to set-up COVID clinics in a central location early in the New Year and we will update you as soon as the site (anticipated to be Millenium House, Pensilva) has been approved by NHS England. The first patients to be invited to have their COVID jabs will be patients aged over 80 years, with our eldest patients being invited first. Subsequent age groups will be invited as part of a rolling programme, and the vaccination programme is anticipated to be ongoing for many months, so your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated.

### **THANK YOU**

We remain greatly appreciative to the Looe District Nurses who continue to support our vulnerable patients across the community, to the Looe Lions who supported us once again at our latest flu drive-thru and of course to our patients and other healthcare professionals who have supported us throughout this challenging year.

Thank you everyone, we are humbled by your kindness and together we are committed to keeping our community safe throughout Christmas and the New Year, with the aspiration that life will return to 'normal' as soon as possible.

Sending seasonal greetings to you ALL.

Drs Roy, Kodde, Mogford and Buchanan  
Partners, Old Bridge Surgery, and the Surgery Team