



January 2021 – 3rd edition

Dear All,

COVID Vaccination Update – Don't call us, we'll call you!

Thank you for everyone who has attended the COVID vaccination centre at Millennium House, Pensilva, together with all of the positive feedback we have received. We are also delighted to advise that we have vaccinated residents and staff across all the local care homes.

As we look ahead to this week, we will be offering a 'pop-up' clinic on Thursday 28th January at the Millpool Centre in Looe, where we hope to vaccinate the remaining patients who are over 80 years. Housebound patients will be vaccinated simultaneously, where possible and our reception team are busily booking appointments so as always, don't call us, we'll call you. Just as they did for our flu clinics, the Looe Lions will be supporting us on the day and we are so grateful for their continued commitment and support.

Alongside the pop-up clinic, an additional mass vaccination centre will come into operation at China Fleet on Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week, together with clinics operating at Millennium House on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This is a very busy time, and if all goes to plan we'll be vaccinating over 1000 Old Bridge Surgery patients across these latest clinics.

Going forward, we hope that further pop-up clinics will be available at the Millpool Centre, although we cannot commit to anything beyond this week, so please do book into China Fleet or Millennium House if this is offered to you. We have already started to call patients aged over 70 years into these clinics, so if you fall into this age group we will be contacting you shortly.

Your ongoing support and patience is greatly appreciated, and rest assured where there is vaccine availability (over which we have no control), we'll be calling our eligible patients as soon as possible.

NHS England Invitations

In addition to the clinics our staff are supporting, NHS England have started to send separate invitations to patients aged over 75 years to invite them to attend one of the Super Vaccination Centres situated in Cornwall (Stithians/Roche) and Devon (Devonport and various other sites). With so many clinics available, the intention is simply to give you as many options as possible. You are very welcome to take up any of these options.

Beware of Fraudsters

We are hearing reports that some patients are being contacted with offers of COVID vaccinations or creams to help with localised pain after vaccination. COVID vaccines are not available privately, and will not be charged for by the NHS. If contacted, please do not provide any payment details. Sadly there are unscrupulous people trying to take advantage, so please be aware and look out for vulnerable family, friends or neighbours who could be targeted.

Staff Changes on the Horizon

Some of our longstanding staff are taking well deserved retirement and new staff will join us. Changes include:

- Practice Nurse, **Alex Laslett**, retires this year after 28 years with Old Bridge Surgery. Leaving to spend more time with her family, she will however continue to help us with COVID vaccination clinics. We are delighted to share that Alex has been shortlisted for the South West 'Above and Beyond Practice Nurse Award', with a virtual award ceremony taking place on February 11th. The nomination reflects her significant support and contribution to our Learning Difficulty community in Looe.
- **Dr Goss**, who has been with the practice on/off for about 25 years, leaves us for a far more relaxed pace of life at the end of February 2021.
- Similarly, after 30 years as a GP / Partner at Old Bridge Surgery, **Dr Roy** retires at the end of March 2021. Leaving to spend more time with his family and of course to pursue hobbies old and new, you may well see him in the occasional clinic to provide cover (if needed) or out on his paddle board enjoying life from outside the surgery.

As staff and patients, we will miss them greatly, however we thank them for their contribution to staff and patients past and present and wish them the best of health and happiness in their new beginnings.

Introducing new faces

Whilst Alex will not be replaced, with the already established team of Laura, Abi and Lucy in place, new GPs will be joining the surgery.

- **Dr Hughes** is relocating from Devon to Cornwall, after a period of commuting between the two counties. As a longstanding GP, and Partner of a Practice in Devon, he will join us on March 4th 2021, working on Thursday and Friday.

- **Dr Kuteyi** is relocating from Scotland to Cornwall, and has been captivated by the spirit of Cornwall with friends and family already here. He will join us on March 8th 2021, working Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

We are absolutely thrilled at these new appointments and look forward to welcoming them to the surgery team.

Finally, **Dr Allen** will be off for three months from the end of next week to have a hip replacement. As a keen gardener and someone who enjoys walks and everything outdoors, we wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to her return to the surgery when she is ready. During her absence, Dr James and Dr Farrar, who many of you will have met already, will help to provide the much appreciated cover needed.

Until our next newsletter, stay positive, stay safe and remember 'Hands, Face & Space'.

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