



December 2021

Dear all,

As we approach Christmas and the New Year, we would like to take a moment to say 'THANK YOU' for all your kindness and support. This has been the most challenging of years, and we have done our absolute best to continue to deliver patient care whilst also bringing COVID clinics to our community, but we couldn't have done it without you.

As individuals, and as a community, it has been wonderful to see so many of you have had your vaccinations, recognising the importance to protect ourselves and others. We can share to-date that 92% of our overall community (over the age of 12 years), have had their first vaccination, with 90% having had two vaccinations and 61% having had their booster vaccination. However, we need your help!

With Omicron emerging at speed, and the governments announcement that we need to go to 'Plan B', the NHS has been asked to accelerate our booster campaign. With a Covid clinic already scheduled for Friday 17th December at the Millpool Centre, we will now also be running a clinic on Monday 20th December at Looe Community Academy.

We have the dates and we have allocated the time, so we now need ALL remaining eligible patients to book into one these Pfizer clinics, so that you can protect yourself and the community ahead of Christmas. Everyone aged 12 years and over, please call **01503 266 960** (best after 10am) if you:

- Haven't had a COVID vaccine yet, it's not too late to grab your first jab, and it's okay to change your mind if you previously declined.
- Need your second COVID vaccine, which you can have 8 weeks after your first vaccine.
- Are eligible for your booster which you can have 3 months after your second COVID vaccine.

Patients aged 18 years plus who have tested positive for COVID, cannot be vaccinated until at least 28 days after they were first diagnosed, with patients under the age of 18 years needing to wait for 12 weeks before being vaccinated. It is anticipated that COVID vaccines will be rolled out to 5-11 year olds in the New Year.

In the meantime, in response to the risks of Omicron:

- Wear a face covering in most public places and on public transport, including for all surgery appointments and attendance at Covid clinics. Please only attend the surgery if you have an appointment.
- Be honest when asked by the surgery if you have Covid symptoms, or have been in contact with someone who has Covid. It's really important that we assess the risks of everyone attending the surgery, especially as we try to protect our vulnerable patients and our staff who need to deliver vital patient care
- [Get tested](#) and self-isolate if required, remember get a PCR if you have any symptoms
- Work from home, if you can
- Get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer.

Changes at the Surgery

We are thrilled to announce that from January 1st 2022, Dr Bruce Hughes will become one of our Partner GPs, working alongside Drs Kodde, Mogford & Buchanan to oversee the continued running of the surgery. Having been a GP at the surgery since March 2021, Dr Hughes shared that he is *“delighted to be joining such a fantastic and dedicated team and is looking forward to getting to know Looe more, particularly the pasty shops...”*

For those that have attended appointments at the surgery, you will have noticed that we have started a much needed refurbishment of our Looe Surgery. We have an ongoing programme of works, which we hope to complete by Summer 2022 and we apologise for the ongoing disruption during this time.

Christmas Opening Times

If you need medical advice during the Christmas period, visit our website or NHS 111, 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:

	<u>Surgery</u>	<u>LIVI</u>
Friday 24 th December – Christmas Eve	Normal Hours	7am- 8pm
Saturday 25 th December – Christmas Day	Closed	8am – 4pm
Sunday 26 th December – Boxing Day	Closed	8am – 4pm
Monday 27 th December	Closed	7am – 10pm
Tuesday 28 th December	Closed	7am – 10pm
Wednesday 29 th December	Normal Hours	7am-10pm
Thursday 30 th December	Normal Hours	7am-10pm
Friday 31 st December – New Year’s Eve	Normal Hours	7am- 8pm
Saturday 1 st January – New Year’s Day	Closed	8am – 4pm
Sunday 2 nd January	Closed	7am-10pm
Monday 3 rd January	Closed	7am – 10pm
Tuesday 4 th January	Normal Hours	7am-10pm

Don’t forget LIVI over Christmas

LIVI GP’s are all GMC-registered NHS GP’s, 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, 1911 of our patients have already signed up for LIVI and are happy in the knowledge that they can access a GP from their home, especially when we are closed. 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.

Remember our local pharmacies are also there to support too, so rest assured that there is help if you need it.

Flu Vaccination Update

Great news, a record number of patients have already 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.

Firefighter Appeal

Working in the emergency services can be very rewarding, however recruitment during the Covid pandemic has been challenging.

Looe Fire Station are currently recruiting for the exciting and rewarding role of On Call Firefighter. Working in the fire service means you become part of a close-knit team, earn extra money and receive full and ongoing training so you develop a broad range of transferable work and life skills. Our community needs firefighters, and to find out more [click here](#).



THANK YOU

Finally we would like to say a massive 'THANK YOU' for the continued support from the Millpool Centre and Looe Community Academy, Edwina and Armand for promoting our clinics, and of course the amazing Dr Benton and his lovely wife Judy and the fantastic Looe Lions who have been with us come rain, or shine!

Merry Christmas to you ALL, from the Old Bridge Surgery team.