

## Surgery Updates

### Masks, Covid Pop-Ups, Building Refurb, PPG & LIVI

13th June 2022

Dear All

#### **Masks**

Whilst COVID has **NOT** gone away, you may have seen or heard in the media that the wearing of masks has been relaxed in healthcare settings.

Taking this into consideration, patients and staff no longer need to wear masks **unless**:

1. You have respiratory symptoms and/or are attending one of our specialist respiratory clinics. Our staff will advise when it is appropriate to wear a mask and your support and understanding is greatly appreciated
2. If you are immunocompromised i.e. are currently being treated for cancer, or are on treatment for a weakened immune system
3. Personal Choice

#### **Covid Clinics**

Catching Covid can still be unpleasant and long Covid can be debilitating, so PLEASE make sure your Covid vaccinations are up-to-date. Pop-Up (walk-in) clinics are operating as follows:

- Millpool Centre – June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup> & July 31, 09:30-14:30
- Polperro Village Hall – June 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-16:00

If you have recently turned 75 years you are now eligible for a Spring booster. If you have a child who has recently turned 5 years, they are now eligible for their first Covid vaccine.

Whether you are due your first or second jab, or one of the boosters, simply pop along to one of the clinics to get vaccinated and help to protect yourself and others against Covid.

#### **Looe Building Refurb Update**

Thank you for your continued patience, our refurbishment programme is coming to an end. Redecorated throughout, including upgraded rooms and new infection control flooring, we have also relocated our reception desk permanently to the foyer, making it easier to direct patients to either our upstairs or downstairs waiting rooms. Bringing life back into our building, we are delighted with the positive feedback from staff, patients and visitors.

## **Patient Participation Group – message from the PPG team**

You may have noticed a "PPG" pop up on the information screen in the waiting room of the Surgery and maybe wondered a little about it? The Patient Participation Group comprises a group of patients from the practice who ideally would be representative of age groups and life groups, for example, older people, younger people, parents with children, single people over the age of 18 etc. The aim is to work with the Old Bridge Surgery team on behalf of patients to assist in providing a good all-round quality service to us all.

In April 2015, NHS England required all GP practices to form a PPG, that it should be representative of the practice population, include patients, carers, and GP practice staff. The Old Bridge Surgery embraces this concept, the GPs taking it in turn to attend the full PPG meetings giving a wide view and breadth of experience to proceedings, the Practice Manager and Admin/Office manager offer experience and information on procedural issues, plus a "what's on at the surgery today" view.

At the moment we are a very small, but merry, band of patient volunteers. Unfortunately, only one of us is a man and we are all only representative of one age group, at the "more mature" end of the scale. However, we aspire to be no more than 10 patients, all with a positive and constructive outlook who want to be part of a team.

Our aim as patient representatives is to reflect views, ideas, comments from patients to the practice, helping us all be more involved in our healthcare service provision and services that we receive working alongside health carers, exploring suggestions and thoughts on existing practices, including those some may think do not work well, and vice versa. This will hopefully create two-way traffic from surgery to community and from community to surgery.

We would love to hear from anyone who would be willing to join us, especially if you are over 18 years of age, male or female, have children or not, and are happy to share your views, discuss issues and offer some time. Full meetings with practice staff are likely to be around four to six times a year but will be responsive to need and the PPG patient volunteer members may meet more frequently should needs arise, but again, flexibility for all helps.

Please join us, we are learning a lot, we have fun, get tea and biccies at meetings and feel useful. Hopefully, those of you who join us will find the experience equally as rewarding. We cannot do it without you! To find out more, email [oldbridgesurgery.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:oldbridgesurgery.ppg@nhs.net)

### **LIVI**

Finally, it's wonderful to hear such positive feedback about LIVI. LIVI GPs are available 7 days a week, from the comfort of your home. Nearly 3,000 of our patients have already signed-up to LIVI, with over 2,000 appointments made by Old Bridge Surgery patients.

To find out more, download the app and register to the LIVI service please [click here](#).

GP Partners  
Old Bridge Surgery