

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Happy Christmas to you all! We are very grateful for the various gifts that have been brought in for staff. We hope that you all have a good and safe Christmas. We know that it isn't the ideal situation for everyone, but we hope that you are still able to make the most of it.

We will be closed from today (Thursday 24 December) at 18:30 until Tuesday 29 December at 08:00. We will then close again from Thursday 31 December at 18:30 until Monday 4 January 2021

CORONAVIRUS VACCINATIONS

The COVID-19 vaccination programmes are under way. Our local GP federation, Rochdale Health Alliance (RHA), are doing the vaccinations for our patients. Some have been invited to Number 1 Riverside in Rochdale for vaccination; others will be invited to Middleton Health Centre in January. They are working their way down through the eligible groups. Please do not contact the surgery to ask when you will be invited, we do not know.

Although the vaccinations have started (and most staff have had their first dose) the surgery will continue to be a COVID secure building. The changes made to ensure this are:

- Putting up screens on the reception desk at both sites
- Switching to a telephone triage model where all initial appointments are carried out via telephone
- Reducing paper usage
- The wearing of masks by all staff and patients when moving about the

practice (staff can remove their masks when at their desks)

- Fitting of an intercom at Junction

We are very grateful to all those patients that have adapted and followed the guidance as best they can. We understand that it may often be difficult to keep up, and appreciate that you may not enjoy wearing masks, but want you to know we are grateful to all of you that have tried to stick with it.

Q DOCTOR

Q Doctor is a video consulting software which we will be starting to use more over the next few months. If you need to have a video call from the GP or another clinician, it is recommended that you download the free Q Doctor app from the Apple App Store or from the Google Play Store.

FLU SEASON CONTINUES

Flu season continues. We have now used all our vaccinations for those aged 18-64 at risk. If you are in this group and delayed receiving the flu vaccination and now want to have it, you will need to try at a local pharmacy. We still have some vaccinations available for those aged 65+, so if you want to receive your flu vaccination, please call the surgery to book in.

In December the government extended eligibility to those aged 50-64, not at risk. If you are in this group, we have vaccines available; please call the surgery to book in. We will be sending out another round of flu invites in the next week or so.