

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 31, 2021

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all! We are very grateful for the various gifts that have been brought in for staff. We hope that you have all had a good and safe Christmas and that you have a Happy New Year. 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.

## FACE MASKS AND COVID PROTOCOLS

As you will be aware, the Omicron variant continues to spread within the locality. As per NHS England guidelines, all visitors to the practice will be required to wear a facemask while inside the building. This is in order to protect our staff and most vulnerable patients. More information can be found on the [NHSE website](#).

The practice will continue to keep it's COVID protocols (temperature checks, masks when moving away from workplace, social distancing) for now as we know COVID is still at a high transmission rate within our local area.

## CORONAVIRUS VACCINATIONS

We continue to run COVID vaccination clinics at the Junction and Alkington Surgeries. If you want to receive a COVID vaccination (booster, first, second, or third) then you can book in via reception.

Alternatively you can continue to book using 119, or by attending one of the many walk in sites available (Middleton Arena, or Riverside in Rochdale).

## PATCHS

We introduced a web-based triage system called PATCHS this year. This system allows

patients to log appointment requests, clinical queries, or medication requests, at any time of day. Many of our patients have already signed up.

Clinical requests once received are booked in with one of our GPs, who can then communicate directly with the patient via the PATCHS system.

If you wish to sign up the link is found on our appointments page on our website.

## STAFF CHANGES

Sadly two of our staff members have left the practice in the last few months:

- Suzanne retired in September. Suzanne had been working as a Health Care Assistant for many years at the surgery. We wish her all the best on her retirement.
- Debra has also moved on. Debra became one of our main Practice Nurses after Sheila retired. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Since then we have taken on two new members of staff:

- Lucie has joined us as a newly qualified Practice Nurse. She has been working alongside Lesley and has very quickly adapted to life in General Practice. She has also become our lead vaccinator for most of our COVID vaccination clinics!
- Michelle is a Nurse Associate who joined in August. She has taken on several of Suzanne's roles, but also many nurse roles including smears and injections.

We hope you will help to make them feel welcome as part of our practice staff.