

Flu Clinics

This year, the main Flu Clinics were held as a drive-thru at Henstridge Airfield.



7000 patients visited the site during two weeks in September. It took several months of detailed planning, to ensure the safety of patients and staff in the current environment. Over ten days, more than 50 Practice staff and 80 volunteers ensured a smooth flow through the tents and a great many patients were really appreciative of how easy it was. In addition to the drive-thru, Nordcat buses took patients to the airfield and clinicians boarded the buses to carry out the vaccinations.

The Practice is most grateful to all the volunteers for making this possible. Jane Dawes, Managing Partner says *“They have all been just brilliant, so smiley and wonderful to work with. We’ve collected all the feedback we’ve received and nearly all of it talks about how helpful, welcoming and kind the volunteers were.”*

If you are an eligible patient and were unable to get to Henstridge, then information will follow shortly about the provision of a mobile flu clinic which will go round various local villages to provide appointments.

Covid 19 Testing

It is really important to stress that the Practice is unable to arrange a test for Covid 19. If you need to access a test, then please call 119 or go to <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Working Differently

During lockdown, the Practice received some negative allegations about being lazy, not wanting to see patients and it being impossible to see a doctor. So, we’d like to share the following statistics which were collated at the end of August.

The Practice covers Marnhull, Sturminster Newton, Shaftesbury and Fontmell Magna.

- 72,018 Telephone Calls received
- 64,170 GP Consultations provided
- 32,775 Urgent Care Appointments
- 12,190 Practice Nurse Appointments
- 14,352 Health Care Assistant Appointments

The message is, the Practice is and has been open throughout, just working in a different way to keep patients and staff safe.

It's really important that if you have new symptoms or are worried about any health condition, that you contact the Practice as soon as possible.

Booking online appointments, is not available at present, so use the telephone to contact the Practice, or if you have internet facilities, and it's not urgent, then log on to the website and go to eConsult and follow the simple instructions. You will receive a response by telephone or email within 48 working hours – and usually, much faster than that.

A Message from Public Health Dorset Let's get back to basics

We need to go back to basics in order to prevent transmission of coronavirus in Dorset.

- ✓ Keep your distance
- ✓ Wash your hands
- ✓ Wear a face covering

Hear more from Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health for Dorset and BCP Councils in [our latest video](#). We also published [our weekly update on COVID-19 in Dorset](#).

Accessing Mental Health Support

Coronavirus has changed life for all of us. For some people, these changes can be difficult to cope with. Health concerns, ongoing uncertainty or financial difficulty can all lead to us feeling much more stressed, worried or low.

Everyone's situation is different but talking about what you are going through, can help. This could be to a friend, relative or a colleague.

If you're struggling to cope, Dorset has a mental health helpline called Connection, which is on hand 24/7 to give advice and support with any mental health concerns you have. You can also speak to them if you are worried about someone else.

Call Connection on 0300 123 5440 or visit the [Connection website](#) for more information.

Emergency care

Around 70% of Emergency Department attendances are made up of walk-in patients, but in the current environment, due to social distancing and infection prevention and control precautions, the space in EDs is reduced by 30-50%, as it's important to keep patients safe in the reduced space in waiting rooms.

Also, a significant proportion of those attending EDs could be seen elsewhere, for example a Minor Injuries Unit.

The best route to find out about your options is to contact NHS 111. This makes it easier and safer to get the right advice or treatment when you urgently need it and increasingly, they will be able to book direct appointments/time slots into a service that is right for you. This will prevent unnecessary delays and wasted journeys, ensuring you get the right treatment, in the right place, at the right time.

Facebook Live !

The Practice has been using Facebook to have live sessions with a variety of experts, to answer patients' questions. Follow them on Facebook where you will receive notifications of upcoming sessions and then watch them live on www.facebook.com/bvppgs and you can also send in your questions in advance.

Recordings of these and previous events are available on the Practice Facebook page.

Dorset's Mental Health Integrated Community Care Project

It's important that everyone living in Dorset experiences the best mental health and wellbeing possible. Currently, primary and community mental health services don't always meet everyone's needs. The Mental Health Integrated Community Care Project provides the opportunity to work with local people and communities to improve mental health services for adults and older people, and those that support them.

If you are 16 or over, we would like to hear your honest opinions about your experience of mental health services in the community, how you feel people could be enabled to improve their mental health and wellbeing, and how well this is done at the moment. Please take part in a survey which is running until 9 October 2020.

This is available in online, paper and easy-read versions. All of these can be accessed online.

<https://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/cmh/>

In addition, if you would like to share your experiences on the telephone with Dorset Mental Health Forum they you can do so by calling 01305 257 172.

PPG Online Meeting

On **Monday October 12th at 6.30pm** we are holding a PPG meeting for all members of the Practice PPG. This will be by Zoom, with which many will be familiar. It is quite easy to use and full instructions will be sent with the link in due course.

This will be an excellent opportunity to find out first hand what has been happening in the Practice over the past few months and plans for the future. This information will help us all to access the services we need, when we need them. There are some very exciting initiatives in the pipeline and we'll be talking about these and also answering any questions you might have.

If you would like to take part, then please email us either by reply to the email in which you received this Newsletter, or to – bvpppg@gmail.com to let us know and we will send you the link and joining instructions nearer the time.

Contact details -

Email – bvpppg@gmail.com.