**Kessington Medical Centre**

**2020 Autumn Newsletter**

**Welcome Announcements**

The Practice would like to welcome Dr Saryana Thangathurai and Dr Jill Busgeeth to the Practice as our new GP registrars.

We would also like to welcome Helen Rose who joined the Practice team in July as an advanced nursepractitioner. Helen’s role at the Practice is toassist the doctors with house calls.

**Farewell Announcements**

At the beginning of August the Practice said goodbye to Dr Amy Orme after completion of her GP training at the Practice. We wish her the very best in her future career as a general practitioner. However, Dr Orme will return to the surgery in the near future to work some Locum sessions.

Dr Aoibhin Gormley has also completed her GP training with the Practice and will be leaving the Practice on 4th September. We wish her well with her future career as a general practitioner.

**Retirement Announcement**

It is with a heavy heart that we wish to announce that Dr Powell will be retiring on 25th September after 36 years of dedicated service to the Practice. It will be hard to image the Practice without Dr Powell. We would like to thank Dr Powell for making the Practice what it is today and wish her a long and healthy retirement.

**New patient registrations**

The Practice is continuing to accept new patients to the Practice for patients living in the G61 area only. New patient registration and health questionnaire forms can be downloaded from the Practice website. These forms must be completed and handed into the Practice with proof of identity for each individual together with proof of address.

**Resumption of screening services**

 National screening programmes which were paused in March due to coronavirus are set to resume in a series of stages. Patients who were invited for cervical screening before the lockdown should contact the Practice to make an appointment. This applies to anyone who was yet to make an appointment or who had made an appointment which was then cancelled.

Appointment invitations and reminders are now being posted, with invitations sent to those who receive more frequent (non-routine) cervical screening appointments first.

Routine screening will recommence once NHS Scotland has caught up with non-routine appointments affected by the pause.

For information concerning any other screening programmes carried out with the Practice, patients should visit [www.nhsinform.scot/screening](http://www.nhsinform.scot/screening).

The Practice would like to emphasise to patients the importance of being aware and acting on any symptoms associated with conditions being screened for. If you develop such symptoms, don’t wait for your next screening appointment or rescheduled appointment, contact the surgery straight away.

If patients have any concerns about the screening process, they should call NHS inform on 0800 22 44 88 or contact a Screening Centre.

**Covid-19**

This year has brought many changes to the way the Practice has had to operate. With the announcement of the lockdown in mid March due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Practice had to swiftly move to a total triage model, cancelling face to face appointments and replacing them with telephone triage appointments as well as video consultations. We would like to thank all our patients for being accommodating and accepting all of the changes we had to rapidly implement.

Our nursing team have adapted well and although they have continued to see patients with urgent problems, a lot of the long term conditions reviews have been conducted over the telephone.

With the easing of the lockdown, the Practice has decided that the front door will now remain unlocked during normal surgery hours. An intercom system has been installed in the hallway and patients are required to use this system to speak to receptionists before proceeding.

The Practice has now installed Perspex screening in front of the reception desk and a maximum of four people may wait in the waiting room at any one time. We do ask that patients wear face coverings at all times whilst in the Practice and maintain a 2 metre social distance where possible.

We would like to reassure our patients that the Practice is adhering to health board guidelines relating to wiping surfaces and equipment, throughout the day. The appropriate PPE is being worn as and when required and every precaution is being taken to protect both patients and staff.

We ask that any patients who have Coronavirus symptoms **do not enter** the Practice. Patients should visit [www.nhsinform](http://www.nhsinform) to arrange to have a test.

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