DR R KUMAR & DR D TAUNK – BRACE STREET HEALTH CENTRE

PPG NEWSLETTER

7th June 2021

**TO ALL PPG GROUP MEMBERS**

Dear Members,

We hope that all our members are keeping safe and well and at last enjoying some freedom, now that some of the restrictions have been lifted.

I am pleased to say that the Pandemic is gradually easing off and life is getting back to some sort of normality. The Indian variant of the disease is still escalating, but according to the latest news, this is under control and because of the recent lifting of restrictions a slow rise in infections was expected.

The current situation in the surgery is follows:

* **CONSULTATIONS**  – The GP is still conducting phone consultations before the patient is invited in the surgery to see the GP. The 2 GPs’ are conducting phone consultations on the same day as the patient rings the surgery. There is no delay in returning the patient’s call.
* **OPEN FOR BUSINESS** – The surgery is still open for everyday queries and patients can now wait in the reception area, after having their temperature taken – the number of patients allowed to sit inside is 3-4 – spaced out according all guidelines and wearing the appropriate face masks.
* **REFERRALS TO HOSPITAL -** There is no change to the way we refer patients to the hospital. All suspected cancer referrals are sent on a 2 week wait referral as usual. We know that the breast clinic wait can be slightly longer due to a backlog but we understand that this is being dealt with and all patients are seen as soon as possible.
* **COVID VACCINATIONS** – The staff are still calling patients for their Covid vaccination – but we have some help from our PCN (Primary Care Network) now. A person is allocated to our surgery to call the patients/text them on our behalf – This will free up the reception staff to concentrate on the everyday tasks. The uptake in our surgery of late is not particularly good and we kindly ask all members to encourage family and friends to take the Injections as soon as possible to reduce the risk of contracting the virus or passing it on. The upper age group seemed more responsive to the invite than the younger generation. We contact the patients on several occasions to invite them for their Covid vaccination. The venues for vaccinations have increased and patients can choose where they want to go for the vaccination now. We currently are inviting all patients over 30 years old to be vaccinated.
* INFECTION CONTROL – All infection control measure are still in place. Before patients enter the surgery their temperature is taken and hand gel supplied. When patients leave the surgery the chairs are disinfected and wiped down.
* **STAFF SELF TESTING** – Staff continue to self- test for Covid 19 (lateral flow test) at least twice per week – this keeps everyone safe in the surgery and also protects patients who come into the surgery.
* **FREE** testing kits are available for patients at some local chemist shops, including Morrison’s, Wallows Lane, Walsall

**COMMENT:**

We know that a Walsall practice has been featured on the news recently for not answering the telephone after numerous attempts to get through to their surgery – this is not the case for our surgery – the telephone is answered promptly and all calls are dealt with efficiently.

We hope more restrictions are eased soon to enable us to resume our meetings at the surgery.

We are slowly moving forward back to some sort of normality but must still be very aware that the virus is very much still in existence and caution must be exercised when going about our everyday life, keep a safe distance from other people, wear a mask and wash and sanitise your hands regularly.

Above all follow the government guidelines and stay safe.

If you would like to contribute any comments to this Newsletter please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

Thank you for your continued support

Regards

Dr R Kumar ….. Dr R Kumar

Barbara Severn …… Barbara Severn



Paul Evans (Chair)