

March 2024

UPPER TOOTING

SURGERY



Dear Reader

COVID Vaccinations

We move into spring and brighter days, however, COVID information still features in this update.

There will be an additional Spring Booster campaign, however, this will only be indicated for:

- Patients over 75
- Care home residents
- Immunocompromised individuals

We anticipate vaccines to be delivered in mid-April and have provisionally arranged clinics at our Trevelyan House site on Saturday 20th April and Saturday 27th April.

We will contact all eligible patients to book you in as soon as we have a definite vaccine delivery date. Local pharmacies will still offer a service and details can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/find-a-walk-in-covid-19-vaccination-site/>.

As always, **please** ensure that your contact details are up to date.

NHS App

We are keen to get as many of our patients as possible using this app with confidence. This needs to be linked to access granted by the practice (and for this, we naturally need proof of identity).

Our website gives clear details on how to download this app and apply for access.

You can use it to order repeat medication, view GP records (from October 2023) and see laboratory results.

If you do not have this, please ask our reception team to help you set it up.

Childhood Immunisations

Poor uptake of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine has been a common theme of the newsletter over the last year. A declining vaccination rate has sadly led to an increase in measles cases, and measles can be a serious illness with complications for some children.

We have offered catch-up clinics and extra vaccine slots with limited success but urge all parents to ensure their children are up-to-date with all vaccinations.

Adult Immunisations

It is estimated that nearly one million 19-25 year olds are also non-immune to measles due to a false link with autism suggested by a now-disgraced doctor in 1998 which frightened parents and led to many not being vaccinated.

Patients in this group are also invited to book an MMR vaccine as you are at risk now that measles is resurgent in our communities. MMR also protects against mumps, which can be very unpleasant in adults and Rubella (German measles) which, if contracted in pregnancy, can be extremely serious for a developing baby, causing heart defects, deafness and blindness.

Cervical smears

Cervical screening appointments are bookable online and are available on weekday evenings and Saturdays, which can be convenient for many.

If you are invited, please book a slot but note that the laboratory will not process 'early' smears, so you must only book an appointment after receiving an invite issued by NHS England.

Blood tests

We have introduced online bookable blood test appointments, but please ensure that a blood test request has been organised for you by a clinician before booking.

Online Consultations

It is possible to contact us via the AccuRx Online Consultation tool detailed on our website and this can work well for some simple problems and some patients.

Contact us online

Submit a new request

If you need help with a non-urgent medical or admin request, you can now contact us online **without having to call the surgery.**

We strongly feel that our patient demographic and practice ethos does not fit with a 'total triage' model as employed by many South West London practices, where all requests for appointments need to be submitted via an online form.

Whilst there is encouragement from NHS England to move to this model, we have no plans to do this and are happy to receive support from our Patient Participation Group (PPG) for this. We do, however, ask for patients, if possible, to give our reception team an idea of their problem to ensure that they are seen by the most appropriate team member. Likewise, if booking online, please give a brief outline of the problem.



Domestic violence

Domestic violence is sadly not uncommon and affects all communities.

There are some relaunched local services as detailed on our website ([Wellbeing Centre > Domestic Abuse Services](#)) and summarised below:

One Stop Shop

One Stop Shop is a drop-in service for residents of Wandsworth who are experiencing domestic abuse and would like to see an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) in person. Legal and housing advice can also be sought via this service and no appointment is required.

Location 1: St Mark's Church,
Battersea Rise SW11 1EJ
Every Monday, between 10:00-12:00
(excluding Bank Holidays)

Location 2: Citizen's Advice
Wandsworth, Picasso Building,
Minstead Gardens SW15 4EE
Every Wednesday between 10:00-
12:30

Hestia's Refuge Referral Line

Hestia provides advocacy, confidential advice, and practical support to all victims of domestic abuse, including safety planning, risk assessment, support around obtaining protective civil orders, support letters, advice on housing options and referrals to other services depending on the victim/survivor's support needs.

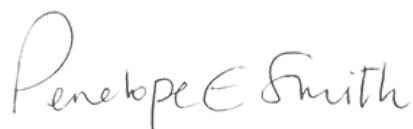
Hestia's Advocacy Service: 0203 879 3544 (Mon-Fri, 09:00 to 17:00)
Email: richwan.idva@hestia.org

Hestia's Refuge Service: 0808 169 9975 (Mon-Fri, 10:00 to 16:00)
Email: refuge.space@hestia.org

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter

With best wishes

Dr Penelope Smith



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