

GREYSTOKE GAZETTE

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Covid 19 update

It seems very strange to start the first Greystoke Gazette of 2021 by wishing everyone a Happy New Year whilst we enter the third lockdown of the pandemic, but we would none the less still like to wish all our patients the very best for the year.

The Covid 19 pandemic continues to take it's toll on the health service and both primary and secondary care have witnessed unprecedented times with regards to the pressures we are facing. First and foremost we would like to thank our wonderful patients for their ongoing support during this extremely challenging time. We have seen some wonderful comments on social media which have been a real encouragement to us and would like to thank our patients for these. We are also rather disappointed to have witnessed unpleasant and derogatory comments aimed at NHS staff on social media and on our telephones, so would kindly ask people to respect the circumstances we are working under and reassure people we are doing our very best.

The Covid 19 vaccination programme has begun and we are in the process of calling groups of eligible patients in order of priority. This is being delivered on top of the usual workload and vaccinations are currently being delivered at Alnwick Hub for patients across the Primary Care Network. We are delighted to welcome back staff previously affiliated with Greystoke who have been immensely helpful in stepping up to the challenge of delivering the vaccination programme. Some familiar faces that you might see delivering vaccinations include previous senior partners Dr David Ridley and Dr Jane Elphick (both sadly not available for consultations), previous senior practice nurse Trish Ridley, former practice midwife Hilary Bradley and former community matron Alison Murray. We are extremely grateful to them for stepping in to help support the vaccination programme as this allows us at Greystoke to maintain as best a level of access as possible.

The photo on the right shows Dr Matt Kurian recently receiving his Covid Vaccination at the Alnwick Hub. He is extremely needle phobic and you can guarantee that there is a grimace behind his face mask, but he would still encourage everyone to have their vaccination!



Covid 19 vaccination Scam alert

Reports are emerging of a scam targeting some of the most vulnerable patients, spreading across the country.

Residents are being urged to keep their wits about them over a new coronavirus vaccine scam which is targeting vulnerable people. Residents in their 90s have received phone calls to say they will be having their Covid-19 vaccinations at home and will receive a visit at a certain time and date. They are then asked to provide personal information over the phone. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/18963603.scammers-target-older-people-awaiting-covid-19-vaccine/>

Please be aware that you will be contacted by the Practice regarding the delivery of your vaccination and one of our receptionists will book you in for your appointment.

How you can help us



We have had numerous offers from people willing to help us out in any way they can which has been wonderful to hear. The most important this that the public can do is to follow the national guidance in the current lockdown, that is to stay at home, wear a mask and wash your hands. There is no doubt that following this guidance will significantly reduce the risk of transmission of the virus including the new variant and will ease the pressure on our already extremely busy hospitals.

As we deliver the vaccination programme, you will unfortunately see a reduction in access available whilst staff are redeployed to the vaccination hubs. Therefore, we would like to remind our patients of the following available services that can be accessed without the need of contacting the practice.

Your local pharmacy - For any minor ailments

Talking Matters Northumberland - mental health problems. Self referral number: 0300 303 0700

JMAPS - musculoskeletal problems. Self referral number: 03301 244 652

The latest NHS information and advice on Coronavirus can be found at: -

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

In the meantime, please do stay safe, take care and look after yourselves.

