

# GREYSTOKE GAZETTE

ISSUE 108

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021

## Current Covid Situation

Now that social distancing measures have essentially ended, thanks to the success of the UK vaccination programme, we are seeing some return to normality. Despite this, we will continue to remain vigilant with regards to our approach to managing the pandemic. Whilst there is no legal requirement to wear masks, we would still kindly ask you to wear one whilst in Morpeth NHS Centre, use the hand sanitiser at the door and maintain social distancing. We are still seeing a number of Covid cases in the Morpeth area and although these are low there is no sign that these are diminishing completely. Fortunately hospital admissions and the death rate continues to remain low.

We are still waiting to hear about the final details of the Covid Booster campaign and we will be contacting our patients about this in due course. We are uncertain at this stage whether it will be aligned with the annual flu vaccination campaign but the fact remains that we would strongly urge our patients to accept the invitations for both vaccinations.

Please do not contact us to enquire about the annual flu or Covid booster vaccination programmes as we will contact you.

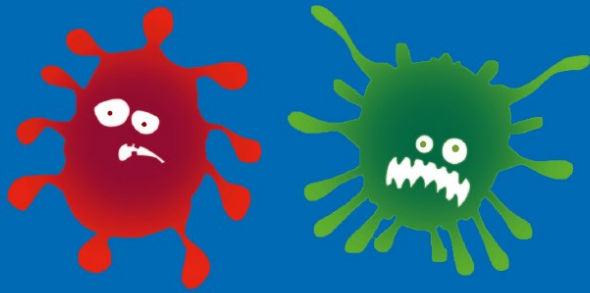
## Access to appointments

We are still offering access via eConsults as a way to contact the surgery for your needs without needing to ring in for an appointment. This service is available on the website and you can simply follow the instructions. We will endeavour to reply to your query as soon as possible.



As the Summer holidays are now in full swing, some members of staff will be away. This coupled with the requirement and eventuality that some members of staff may have to self isolate means that there may be times where we are short staffed, there may be less available appointments or there might be a longer wait for the phones to be answered. Changes to the rules with regards to self isolation in staff who are double vaccinated should mitigate this issue so we can continue to run a service as best as we can.

Once again, we are grateful for your patience.



**NHS**

# FLU FACTS VS FLU FICTION



**Dr Dan Yeomanson,**  
Consultant Paediatric Oncologist

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**FICTION**

The flu jab gives you flu.

**FACT**

The flu jab cannot give you flu as it doesn't contain any live viruses.

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**FICTION**

A healthy diet and vitamin C will prevent flu.

**FACT**

Flu is a virus and can affect anyone, no matter how good your immune system is.

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**FICTION**

The vaccine does not work, I still got flu!

**FACT**

Over the last ten years, the vaccine has provided good coverage against flu and it is still the best way to fight flu this winter.

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**FICTION**

I've never had flu so I'm not likely to get it.

**FACT**

The flu virus mutates so you need to be vaccinated yearly for protection.

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**FICTION**

The vaccine is not safe.

**FACT**

The vaccine is well tested and has an excellent safety record.

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**FICTION**

I'm not in an at risk group.

**FACT**

Anyone can get flu and pass it on to vulnerable groups – even with no symptoms.



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