

Long Bennington Medical Centre – July 2021

Dear Patients – by the time you read this we should have had easing of all the major COVID restrictions as of 19 July. We want everyone to enjoy themselves and their new found freedom but would still advise caution. This bulletin will outline what we are doing here at the Practice and our recommendations.

Covid Vaccinations:

The vaccination programme continues with the teams all working to finish vaccinating the last of the 2nd dose cohorts. We are aware that there is talk of a booster being offered later in the year and will publish full details of what will be happening in our local area once we know ourselves.

Website - www.longbenningtonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk

Facebook - @LongBenningtonMedicalCentre

COVID vaccination status

COVID-19 vaccination status is available for people living in England, for international travel, via the NHS App or by calling 119 to request a letter copy. In addition, it is now possible to request a copy of the letter via the NHS website - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/covid-status-letter/>. We are advised that it may take up to five working days to arrive by post. Patients should wait five working days AFTER they have had their second dose for the system to be updated.

Post 19 July information

We are all no doubt aware of the COVID variants as well the fact that autumn brings with it the usual bugs and infections. In order to protect patients and staff we will remain vigilant post 19 July and intend to carry on as we have been throughout the pandemic. This means that our staff will continue to wear face masks and we ask patients to do the same whilst on the premises. We will still also ask patients to continue to exercise social distancing. As always, if you have any COVID symptoms we ask that you do not come to the Practice. If you have COVID symptoms please don't take a lateral flow test. If you are symptomatic you should book a full PCR test at a test centre.

Practice Information

We have been recruiting recently and are happy to announce that we now have our full complement of 5 team members back on Reception and have been successful in recruiting for an Administrator. We have recently advertised for a new post of Junior Healthcare Assistant and are hoping to appoint a candidate shortly. This post has been created to provide additional support to our existing Nursing team.

Telephones

We are aware that our current telephone system is struggling with the demands put on it at the moment and would like to assure patients that we are actively looking at suitable upgrades/solutions. In the meantime we would ask that patients use askmyGP to put forward queries where possible in order to free up the telephone for those patients who have no access to internet services or need more urgent assistance.

Flu Campaign

We are now actively trying to set up our clinics and are looking at holding both the under 64 at risk clinic and the over 65's clinic on Saturday 2nd October. Full details will follow shortly and be announced on our website and Facebook pages as well as in the newsletter. We anticipate that the 50-64 cohorts will be done after these main groups have been vaccinated later in October.

Patient Participation Group

We are looking to recruit new members to our Patient Participation Group and have already received expressions of interest. To work effectively it is recommended that the group has around 6-8 members. If you have an interest in health, you use our services and you feel that you could make a positive contribution in supporting the practice then please register your interest by contacting Reception.

Awareness Days – August

- 1 August – World Breastfeeding Week - <https://waba.org.my/wbw/>
- 3 August – International Women’s Day - <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>
- 5 August - Cycle to work day - <https://www.cycletoworkday.org/>

Happy holidays but please - Stay safe and remember Hands, Face and Space - **The Team at Long Bennington Medical Centre**