

Weekly update from the Surgery

I had a hell of a shock on Wednesday checking the lab results when I received five positive Covid results. It triggered a flashback to Christmas time and I was hugely relieved when I realised these results were historic from January and February. I've no idea why the lab has chosen to send these again now but it served as a reminder that we are still in the pandemic and why we are still trying to minimise the footfall in the surgery.

The chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease can largely be managed by telephone and our nurses have adapted how they are working with these huge projects. The recommendation from above is that we still "triage" all the appointment requests and therefore we will usually phone to discuss a problem before arranging a "face-to-face" appointment where necessary. This is a model we have never favored but does make sense as we can arrange tests where needed before meeting up and a lot of things can be achieved over the phone.

About a quarter of our consultations are face-to-face and this has been slowly increasing as we relax from lockdown. The approach has helped avoid people congregating in the waiting areas although we all love the vibe of people milling about and can't wait to that being the norm again.

We had another Super-Saturday this weekend with the last of our planned vaccination clinics. All the nurses and some of the admin team gave up their weekend to give second doses of the vaccine. There will be some occasional smaller clinics to mop up but all other vaccines will be at the Mass Vaccination Centres.

We have been asked how to get a vaccine at the hospital in the case of previous allergies but there still isn't a pathway to arrange this to be done. Please tell us if you have been re-directed from the MVCs but at the moment all we can do is keep a list.

There has also been a heads-up that on Monday 17th May there will be guidance how to prove your vaccination status. It will work for anyone vaccinated in England and I think will use the NHS app which can also be used to order medication and look at a summary of your care record and results. So far not many countries insist on proof of vaccination so it may not be very relevant but I definitely recommend the app for the other aspects of it and when the time comes you can use it to make appointments too.

Finally Uncle Paul was also in at the weekend completing the flooring in the admin area. There are just a few bits to do to finish the massive refit that we started over a year ago and although we have lost the amazing Disney mural we hope to put some bright pictures up. We have had some great offerings which are on display and if any budding young artists want to make any contributions they would be gratefully received.

Best wishes to everyone on behalf of the Surgery

Jack Hickey - GP