



# PPG Newsletter



Working with Alrewas Surgery staff to improve the services for everyone

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

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**Welcome to the latest Alrewas Surgery PPG newsletter. Our aim is to keep you updated and to let you know about health-related information that you may find of interest.**

## **Alrewas Volunteers** (organised by the PPG)

We can: help you with shopping and collecting prescriptions; direct you to services that might be useful; be someone you can chat to on the phone. Call the 24-hour helpline **0330 1332 106**. If we are not there, leave a message, and we'll get back to you.

## **Fradley United** (A Fradley charity community group)

If you are self-isolating for any reason and need food, shopping, medicine collection or someone to chat to, please call the 24-hour number **01283 293 031** and leave a message and we will get in touch with you.

## **Looking after your mental health and wellbeing**

Visit **Every Mind Matters** for lots of expert advice and practical tips to help you.

**Everyone Health** is commissioned by Staffordshire County Council for anyone aged over 18. They offer support if you are feeling lonely or isolated and also online physical activity sessions. Call 0333 005 0095 or visit [staffordshire.everyonehealth.co.uk](http://staffordshire.everyonehealth.co.uk).

**Defibrillators** Using a defibrillator before an ambulance arrives significantly increases someone's chance of survival. Learn what to do by searching 'How to use a defibrillator' on the St John Ambulance website, [sja.org.uk](http://sja.org.uk).

## **SURGERY NEWS**

The surgery is open as usual. Doctor appointments are by phone in the first instance. You can book directly for phone and face-to-face appointments with a nurse or a health care assistant.

**COVID Vaccinations:** By the end of January we had vaccinated over 88% of our patients over 80. We are now vaccinating the 70-79 age group. Patients who are over 70 and housebound are being vaccinated at home. We are working through our lists in the order stipulated by the government and when vaccines are available, we are contacting patients to book them for vaccinations at the Pirelli Stadium or at the Surgery.

You may get an official letter from the NHS offering an appointment at one of the national vaccination centres. Please take these up if you can travel, as we want to get as many patients vaccinated as quickly as possible.

**Scam emails and texts** Please be aware that the NHS will never send you an email with a deadline of 12 hours to complete and it will never ask for payment for the vaccine. To book your vaccination, you will either receive a letter from the NHS or a phone call, text message or letter from the Surgery.

**Support for our frail, elderly and most vulnerable patients:** Over the next few months we will be contacting these patients to 'check in' and offer support or guidance where needed. An experienced staff member from our admin team will be making initial contact and signposting people to offer other support as needed. This may be to book an appointment with a doctor or nurse, or to suggest other places and organisations that may be able to help, including the Alrewas Volunteers support group and the Social Prescribers.

**Flu Vaccinations:** Please book an appointment if you haven't had your flu jab yet. We still have vaccines and it's important to get protected. If you are booked for a Covid vaccination you need a 7-day gap between this and any other vaccination, including the flu jab.

**The 'Pod':** You may have noticed a unit in the patient car park. This is to give us somewhere more comfortable and private to see patients if the doctor or nurse feels it is appropriate to see you outside of the main surgery building.

**New Clinical Pharmacist:** Our new clinical pharmacist joins us on Thursday 4 February. Luckasz will be with us for two days a week. Among other things, he will be working on medication reviews, hospital discharge medication updates, prescription queries and long-term condition medications. He will be liaising closely with the clinical team and we feel that this will be a great asset to the Surgery.

**Practice Nurse Carol Day retiring:** Sad times, but Carol's last day is Friday 12 February. It has been a pleasure to have Carol in the team and we wish her every happiness in her retirement.

**New Practice Nurse:** We will be welcoming nurse Sarah Greenfield, who will be joining our team on 29 March. She will be working on Mondays and Fridays.

**Dr Mager-Jones retiring:** Dr Jan Mager-Jones's last day will be Thursday 18 March. Known for her commitment to patient care, her diligence, dedication, hard work and calm, kind approach, it is hard to put into words how much she will be missed by both the team here at the surgery and by so many of our patients. We will miss her greatly but wish her every happiness in her retirement.

**Finally, a huge thank you to the PPG committee members who are volunteering to help with the vaccine rollout. Sincere thanks also to our surgery staff for everything they are doing during these extremely challenging times. Amazing work one and all!**

*The PPG is here to help you and be your voice. If you would like to get in touch, please email us at [alrewas.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:alrewas.ppg@nhs.net).*