

Newsletter Edition 28 September 2020

Face Masks

We are asking that all patients please wear a face mask/covering when attending the surgery. Thank you.

Flu Clinics

We are now booking flu vaccine appointments for Saturday 26th September, Wednesday 30th September and Saturday 3rd October for the over 65's and patients that are medically eligible. Please contact reception to book.

Walk in Flu Clinic – Danbury Medical Centre

Our walk in flu clinics are Monday 21st September 18.30pm - 19.30pm and Friday 25th September 7.00am - 8.30am at Danbury Medical Centre only for the over 65's and patients that are medically eligible.

Children's Nasal Flu Appointments

You are now able to book children's nasal flu vaccines. Please contact reception to book.

Mountbatten House Surgery

We are delighted to announce Mountbatten House Surgery is now open. Please contact the surgery by telephone to make an appointment. Do NOT come to the surgery. Most appointments will be telephone or video consultations in the first instance. If you need to be seen you will be invited to attend the surgery.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

CCG Shutdown

Please be aware the next CCG Shutdown date is Wednesday 30th September 2020 from 12.00 noon. We will only be open for flu vaccine patients. The Mid-Essex CCG will be providing out-of-hours care for our patients from 12.00 noon until 18.30pm and our telephone lines will be diverted to the care provider during this time. In the case of urgent need whilst the practice is closed you can call NHS 111 to speak to a triage nurse. Your needs will be assessed and advice offered or arrangements made for you to see a doctor. Out-of-hours services are generally busy so please think carefully before asking to see a doctor and only do so if you genuinely cannot wait until the surgery re-opens. In a genuine emergency you should call 999. Chest pains and / or shortness of breath constitute an emergency. Hours will resume as normal on Thursday 1st October 2020.

Minor Surgery

We are now beginning to reopen our minor surgery clinic. Please contact reception to book.

Dispensary Information

The dispensary is now open to collect medication Monday to Friday 8.00am - 1.00pm and 3.00pm - 18.30pm. The phone lines for dispensary are open 11.00am - 13.00pm (please note no medication requests can be taken over the phone) or you can contact via email f81100.scripts@nhs.net

Phone Lines

We are continuing to have the majority of appointments via telephone or video consultation unless not clinically appropriate. Please bear in mind this means the phone lines are busier. With this in mind please use the DoctorLink application (please see below for more information) or contact us via email.

Reception - <u>reception.f81100@nhs.net</u> Prescriptions - <u>f81100.scripts@nhs.net</u> Secretaries - <u>secretaries.f81100@nhs.net</u>

DoctorLink

DoctorLink is a web based platform that supports GP practices with managing patient needs by providing a digital triage service. It signposts patients to the most appropriate service:

Homecare, Pharmacy, GP Service, out-of-hours (OOH), 111 or Accident and Emergency (A&E) within a recommended timeframe according to their symptoms.

The symptom assessment will ask you a number of questions to help to identify your problem. If your outcome indicates that an appointment is required at the GP surgery, you simply click on the "request an appointment" button.

You will also soon be able to request repeat prescriptions and request fit/sick notes through DoctorLink.

Sign-up for DoctorLink is simple and you can create an account at https://app.doctorlink.com/beaconhealthgroup/register

SMS Text Messaging & Email Consent Form

The Beacon Health Group can offer you the ability to receive text message reminders for your appointments, send you test results, give you the option to cancel your appointment via text message and inform you of additional clinics we are running e.g. flu clinics. Text messages are generated using a secure facility. Please note that they are transmitted over a public network onto a personal telephone and as such full security is not guaranteed. However, The Beacon Health Group will never transmit any information that would enable an individual patient to be identified or specifically which tests they have had. If you are happy to explicitly consent to receive SMS text messages and emails from The Beacon Health Group, please complete the SMS Text Messaging & Email Consent Form from reception or alternatively from the website.