



County Durham
Alzheimer's Society

Offering bespoke advice and support to
people living with dementia and their
carers and families.

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Alzheimer's Society

Free and confidential
services!

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Willington Medical Group

Newsletter
September 2020

Staff Training for September 2020

Willington Medical Group will be closed for Staff Training on Thursday 24th September 2020 from 12 noon. The surgery will re-open on at 8am Friday 25th September 2020.

Seasonal Flu Clinic

Please note that **we are not** holding a walk in flu clinic this year.

Please telephone the surgery to arrange an appointment for your flu vaccination. We are currently booking appointments for patients over 65.

A flu clinic session will be held on Saturday 3rd October for the over 65's and the 18-65's who are in at risk groups.

All flu vaccinations are bookable appointments.

Patient information for Adult Flu appointments

1. Flu vaccinations are by appointment
2. Please do not arrive early for the appointment - attend at the time you have been given
3. Please attend alone unless your carer also has appointment slot
4. If you have COVID symptoms please do not attend
5. Please bring and wear own face covering wherever possible
6. Please wear a short sleeved top and remove outer coat before entering the room

This newsletter is available on our website and in large print.

Seasonal flu vaccine is recommended for everyone aged 65 years and over and for those of any age with certain chronic diseases including Diabetes, Asthma, COPD and IHD.

Pregnant woman, at all stages of pregnancy, are also advised to have the seasonal flu vaccine.

Please note that children under 16 must be seen by a Practice Nurse for their flu vaccine and not a Health Care Assistant.

Childrens Flu Vaccinations

1. Flu vaccinations are by appointment
2. Please do not arrive early for the appointment - attend at the time you have been given
3. Please attend with one parent/carer and not other siblings (unless they also have an appointment)
4. If you have COVID symptoms please do not attend
5. Please bring and wear own face covering wherever possible
6. Please do not bring red child health books

We **will not be** vaccinating 50-64 year olds, who are not in at risk groups, until November and December 2020 at the earliest; this will also depend upon the availability of the vaccine.

Newsletter

We would like to apologise that the August 2020 edition of our newsletter was not emailed to our patients. It may be viewed on our Practice website.

Keeping our patients informed

Exciting news, Our Admin team is currently developing a Facebook page. We will keep the page up to date with news of any changes in the Practice.

Cancelling Appointments

If you have an appointment with a GP, Nurse, HCA, Midwife or if you have booked a flu vaccination and you cannot attend please cancel the appointment by telephoning, emailing or replying back to the text reminder with the word **CANCEL**.

Message from our GPs

You may have heard in the news that Public Health England made a statement in mid-September urging all GP Practices to “ensure face to face appointments were offered to patients where there was clinical need.” There had been concern that some vulnerable patients, or those with serious health problems, were not been able to be seen and that patients may put off seeking help.

The team at Willington Medical Group wants to assure patients, that throughout the Covid-19 pandemic this is exactly what we, and the overwhelming majority of Practices around the country, have in fact been doing. In order to balance the risk of infection to patients and to staff, we have in line with national guidance, restricted footfall into the building. All patients seeking help – whether appointments or visits - are first assessed by phone, with a telephone appointment with a GP (or nurse practitioner where appropriate.) We do as much safely by phone as we can first, gathering the story, assessing for serious symptoms, and asking your concerns. When appropriate patients are then invited to attend for a face to face appointment, where examination takes place with the GP wearing PPE – to protect you and themselves from the risk of Covid-19.

Please be assured that Willington Medical Group remains open, and was never closed outside its usual hours during the peak of the pandemic. Patients are encouraged not to hold back from discussing concerns about their health or about someone they care for. You can be confident that your concerns will be taken seriously, assessed safely, and that – where there is clinical need - you will be seen, just as Public Health England have stated.