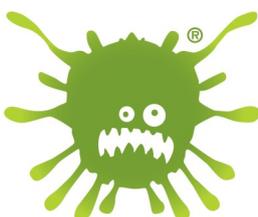


Western Elms Newsletter October 2018

FLU CLINIC

Our Saturday flu clinic will be on **27th October**. Please ask at reception to book in for this clinic.



For 2018, there are 3 types of flu vaccine:

- a live quadrivalent vaccine (which protects against 4 strains of flu), given as a nasal spray. This is for children and young people aged 2 to 17 years eligible for the flu vaccine
- a quadrivalent injected vaccine. This is for adults aged 18 and over but below the age of 65 who are at increased risk from flu because of a long-term health condition and for children 6 months and above in an eligible group who cannot receive the live vaccine
- an adjuvanted injected vaccine. This is for people aged 65 and over.

STOPTOBER

Did you know... If you stop smoking for 28 days you're 5 times more likely to stop smoking for good!



So why not try Stoptober?

Visit www.nhs.uk/oneyou/stoptober/home to find resources to help get you started.

7 DAY WORKING HAS BEGUN!

As you may know, NHS England had said all surgeries will be required to be open 7 days a week as of 1st April 2019, due to the increase in demand they brought this forward to 1st October 2018. By doing so this means we can work collaboratively in 7 day working with our neighbouring surgeries in Reading West - Circuit Lane & Tilehurst surgeries. Together we will be working in a cluster to provide appointments for all of our patients 7 days a week.

We will continue to have out of hours appointments on Mondays and Tuesdays, Tilehurst on Wednesdays and Circuit Lane on Thursdays. Westcall will cover out of hours on Fridays and Sundays and we will take it in turn to open on Saturdays.

Western Elms will continue to stay open from 8.30am - 4.30pm every Saturday until the building work has finished, in which it will then revert back to 8.30 - 12.30pm only.

This means you will be able to be seen at a different surgery who will also have access to your notes, with your consent. Please ask to speak to a duty manager for more information.



Please let us know if you change your mobile number so we can update our records and ensure you continue to receive appointment reminders!

BUILDING WORK PROGRESS UPDATE

There has been a slight delay in the building due to steel structural work. The spiral stairs we had held the weight of the roof, and the floor for the lift needs to be reinforced for the structural work of the lift. This meant the plans went back to the engineers which went to the regulators which then had to be accepted. It is believed it will be finished around Spring so watch this space...

We will be open Saturdays 08:30-16:30 for our prebookable appointments. The patient car park will not be in use during this time as it will be used by heavy goods vehicles. We appreciate this limits parking options, we suggest to plan ahead and where possible use public transport. Whilst we appreciate this may be frustrating, please remember our receptionists did not decide to do this. As a team we are all contributing and working together to provide the same level of care to our patients. If you have any concerns please ask to speak to a Duty Manager.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Would you like to find out what's going on at the surgery behind the scenes or have your say and provide suggestions? Then why not join the PPG? We would love to see some new faces at our next meeting!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 24th October 7pm at the surgery for our annual AGM meeting, we would love to see you there! Please email us on we.patientgroup@nhs.net or let us know at reception if you would like to attend. Your comments and suggestions can make a difference.

WWW.WESTERNELMS.COM

CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to say a massive congratulations to our Advanced Nurse Practitioner Bonita who graduated recently! Well done we are all really pleased and excited for you.



NEWSLETTERS

Do you keep up with our monthly newsletters? If you would like one electronically please email us on we.patientgroup@nhs.net we can then add you to our virtual group and you will be sent one each month to your email along with a set of the PPG meeting minutes.

NEW WEBSITE

Have you seen our new interactive website? You can now do all of the following things and much more!

- Ask a doctor a question
- Register for online services
- Change of personal details
- Ask reception a question
- Request medication

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FRIENDS AND FAMILY

In September 113 people said they were extremely likely to recommend our surgery to Friends and Family!

Thank you to everybody who takes the time to fill out a form.

