

THE FRIENDS OF STAPLEHURST HEALTH CENTRE

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Sponsored by Staplehurst Community Events Group

FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR AUTUMN 2021

During the 2021/2022 season which starts in the Autumn, flu vaccinations will be available to:

All children aged 2 to 15 (but not 16 years or older) on 31 August 2021.

Those aged 6 months to under 50 years in clinical risk groups.

Pregnant women.

Those in long-stay residential care homes

Those aged 50 years and over.

Carers.

Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals.

Frontline health and adult social care staff employed by:

A registered residential care or nursing home.

A registered domiciliary care provider.

A voluntary managed hospice provider.

The childhood flu programme aims to protect children and contain the spread of the virus to babies and vulnerable adults they may be in contact with. The nasal spray vaccine is offered to 2 and 3-year olds and children in primary school and Year 7, and for the first time this year, secondary school aged children up to Year 11.

GETTING YOUR FLU VACCINATION

Patients registered at Staplehurst Health Centre will be pleased to hear that the surgery is currently planning this year's flu clinics. There is **no need to call the surgery** as the surgery will contact you directly by text/call or letter to book an appointment over the coming months.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF STAPLEHURST HEALTH CENTRE. Chairman: Mr. Rory Silkin, Secretary & Treasurer: Mr. Robin Oakley (Tel 01580 891516) Trustees: Mrs. Suzanne Douglas, Sister Alison Edwards, Mr. Lester Gosbee and Mr. Robin Kenworthy.

HEALTH CENTRE CLOSURES FOR TRAINING

The Health Centre will be closed for professional development training from 1pm on the following dates in 2021:- 9 September 19 October 10 November

If you need to contact a doctor urgently on these afternoons phone 111.

ORDERING REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Patients are encouraged to use online services to order their repeat medications as this service is faster and more efficient than ordering via email or into the pharmacy/practice. If you would like to sign up to use online services, please contact the surgery.

GP DATA SHARING SCHEME DELAYED

Plans for a major extraction of data from GP IT systems has been postponed for a second time after the Government promised the controversial process would not start until four key tests were met. The Government has now told GPs it is dropping the previous target date of 1 September and now the project will only go live once four conditions have been met. These conditions are: 1.The ability to delete data already collected prior to a patient choosing to opt out. 2.The backlog of existing opt outs being fully cleared. 3.The development of a 'trusted research environment' – a repository into which the data will be collected and accessed only by NHSD-approved users without further extracting the data, and 4.Greater patient awareness of the scheme.

The delay is a significant shift in policy by the government which had initially hoped to launch the GP data sharing scheme (officially called the General Practice Data for Planning and Research) by the end of June 2021.

LLOYD'S PHARMACY CLOSURES

Lloyd's has the same problems as all the other pharmacy chains as they face a nationwide shortage of pharmacists. As this is being written, staff are being affected by pings from the NHS Test and Trace service and this results in staff members having to isolate, leaving pharmacies short staffed. It is hoped that by the time you read this there will be a new permanent pharmacist in place at Staplehurst pharmacy. If you are queueing to buy over-the-counter medications it is worth noting that Sainsburys carry a good range of such products and they are open 7 days a week.

PATIENTS CAN SELF-REFER TO DIABETES APP

Patients in Kent and Medway are now able to self-refer to an online educational tool tailored to support management of their condition.

The **myDiabetes** platform already has around 1000 people signed up to it in west Kent and Medway. Now, anyone can use it without the need to be referred by a healthcare professional. To self-refer you will be asked to complete an application form which asks name, date of birth, email address, NHS number, contact number and which GP you are registered with. The **my mhealth** team will then be able to register you on the platform and you will receive an email with an activation link.

NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (KMCCG) worked with the Paula Carr Diabetes Trust to introduce the platform to Kent and Medway in April 2021.

You can self-refer by visiting

<https://zfrmz.com/luqupT9WfbXCL67IVxSv>

THE FRIENDS, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

The Friends was set up as a Registered Charity, to provide support for the clinical and admin team at the Health Centre. In the 14 years since it was formed, £14750 has been raised and spent on various items of equipment and 55 newsletters have been produced to keep everyone informed on health matters. These will have cost around £5500 to produce and are an important form of communication which reaches every home in the village. Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown we held 3 or 4 health information evenings each year. These evenings were presented by consultants from local hospitals and representatives from various charitable and health promotion organisations. We also held an annual Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation evening when people could attend, learn how to do CPR and have the opportunity to practice on a mannequin and familiarise themselves with the use of a defibrillator.

Probably the most important activity each Autumn was to assist the clinical team with checking in patients for the flu vaccination sessions. This gave us the opportunity to publicise our activities and sell tickets for our Christmas Draw which has been our main source of income. Since the start of the lockdown we have not been able to assist with the flu vaccination admin, or run the Christmas draw to raise funds. During the last two years we have been fortunate to have sponsorship for this quarterly newsletter by the Staplehurst Community Events Group and their advertisement appears opposite.

It would be nice to think that we can resume our normal activities sometime soon but that will depend on social distancing, mask wearing etc, which is out of our hands.

It is hoped that an Annual General Meeting can be held early in 2022 when the future of the Friends can be discussed and decided upon. At age 83 I feel that it is time to hand over the secretarial reins to someone younger and I shall not be standing for re-election. It would be disappointing if The Friends had to be wound up because of lack of somebody to run it. If you feel that you might be the person to take on the role of secretary/treasurer, please contact me and I will be pleased to give you further information on what is involved.

Robin Oakley Secretary and Treasurer

DISCLAIMER. Please note that neither NHS Kent and Medway CCG, Staplehurst Community Events Group, Integral Medical Holdings or the doctors and staff at the Health Centre take any responsibility for the contents of this newsletter or for the opinions or the information contained therein.



Our next Events

Whites Landscaping 5 and 10k runs.

September 12th 10.00am – Surrenden Field

*Not too late to enter – see
www.netiming.co.uk/staplehurst10k or just come
along and watch!*

2nd Stay Safe Staplehurst Exhibition

October 16th 10.30am -2.00pm Village Centre

*Loads of stalls and info to make you and your
family's life safer*