

## PPG Newsletter for February 2023

### Flu and Covid Vaccinations

The Health Hub at Festival Place, Basingstoke are still offering both the above vaccinations. The Covid Vaccinations can be booked via NBS or patients can just walk in between 9-5. They will offer flu to anyone eligible when they have their Covid vaccine or if patients just need flu then they can walk in for this. **Children aged 5-11 must book an appointment via NBS and this is for covid only.**

### Child Flu Clinics

We are still contacting the parents of eligible children who are aged 2 – 3 years or aged 4 – 17 years with an underlying health condition which puts them at greater risk. Flu has been circulating so please do ring the practice.

Children in years R-7 will be vaccinated in school by the School Health Service.

### Health Hub at Festival Place

The Health Hub at Festival Place will shortly be offering a range of additional services that may be helpful for patients to access. These include: Group Consultations for Looking After Unwell Children; Blood Pressure Checks and NHS Health Checks for eligible groups.

### Electronic Prescription Service (EPS)

Most prescriptions can now be signed, sent and processed electronically.

Patients have 2 choices for how this works:

1. You can choose a pharmacy to dispense all your prescriptions. When you get a prescription, it will be sent electronically to the pharmacy you have chosen. You can collect your medicines or appliances without having to hand in a paper prescription.
2. You can decide to have your prescription sent EPS Any Pharmacy. You will be given a code or can use your NHS Number. Your prescription goes to the NHS Spine and the community pharmacy you have chosen will download the prescription from the Spine and make this up for you.

Paper prescriptions will continue to be available in special circumstances, but the majority of prescriptions will be processed electronically.

### Repeat Prescriptions

If you are on regular medication we can issue a 'batch of monthly scripts to the pharmacy of your choice – this means that each month you just need to visit the pharmacy and your medication will be ready to collect.

## **Cancelling or changing your choice of pharmacist or dispenser**

You can change or cancel your choice of dispenser at any time. Simply speak to your GP or pharmacist before you order your next prescription. You should allow time for the update to take place to avoid your next prescription being sent to the wrong place.

## **Get Help for children/young people 0 to 18 years**

The practice has just launched a new App called 'Healthier Together'. The NHS Healthier Together App provides clear information about what to look out for if your child or young person is unwell and if needed it will directly inform your GP practice (Watership Down Health) about your child/young person's symptoms rather than having to call to get an appointment.

Download the App so that you have the App ready go if your child or young person is unwell:  
[Healthier Together App :: Healthier Together \(what0-18.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-together)

QR codes are available from this link

<https://watershipdownhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/QR-Poster-for-Healthier-Together-App.pdf>

## **Workload / Appointments**

There has been considerable coverage in the local and national press regarding the "pressure" on the health service and primary care. To put this into context for WDH patients, the number of appointments are shown below for December 2021 and 2022. As you will read the increase in demand and response is very considerable

DECEMBER	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK4	WEEK 5
2021	1754	1748	1787	1578	798
2022	2113	2282	2596	2423	1160
% INCREASE	20.4%	30.55%	45.27%	53.55%	45.36%

607 WORDS