

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

News from the practice

We hope to start the extension to the practice building from early November. This depends on whether or not we get all the logistics sorted in time. This will inevitably lead to significant disruption and we ask for your patience and understanding. The first thing to go will be the access ramp which means there will only be one way in and out of the practice – the back door accessed by four steps. For those unable to negotiate this we will be doing home visits so that you are not disadvantaged. The time estimated for completion will be about 5 months.

Flu Vaccinations

This year, because of the proposed building works, it is vital we get the flu vaccination programme completed by mid October. Those aged 50-64 are not included this year unless in an at risk group. Those not in an at risk group will need to get vaccinated on a private basis if so desired.

Covid Booster Programme

This starts 11th September and is for those aged over 65, at risk under 65 and housebound or in a nursing home. We think it is Pfizer vaccine, housebound and nursing home first but again we would aim to have this completed by end of October if at all possible. We will be taking numbers at the flu clinics.

Targeted Lung Health Checks

This is not a scam and if you are contacted it will be because of age and history of current or previous smoking. It is organised by Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital and has been running across Merseyside in recent years and has finally reached Rainford. The idea is if you score highly enough on questioning you are offered a CT scan in the hope that lung cancer can be detected at an early stage when surgery could be curative.

Total Triage

We have now completed 4 weeks of total triage. How is it going? From the practice perspective, it is pretty full on as requests come in continually throughout the day but so far, it has gone better than expected. We appreciate August was the best month to start this with reduced demand due to holidays. Your on-going support of this new system so we do not breach the terms of our contract is much appreciated. Please continue to feedback both good and bad so that we can tweak things as we go along.

Enhanced Access

From 11th September, St.Helens Rota will not be providing the enhanced access. We had no input into this decision and by the time we were informed we could not change the decision.

We opted out of our enhanced access provision last October when told we would have to see patients from other practices. We have offered to see our own patients but this has been rejected. Enhanced access is available across the network until 8pm weekdays and 9-5pm Saturdays but practice uptake has declined significantly since we stopped doing our own. Very few of the enhanced access appointments available will be GP appointments. We have no control.

Keep well.