

**STAYWELL
THISWINTER**

FARNWORTH FAMILY PRACTICE

Practice Newsletter

Winter Newsletter 2022

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Farnworth Family Practice
Farnworth Health Centre
Frederick Street,
Farnworth,
Bolton BL4 9AH
Tel: 01204 463 100
Website:
www.drbaruaandpartners.nhs.uk/

If you require urgent medical assistance when the surgery is closed and cannot wait until the surgery opens, please call the Out of Hours service on 0161 7638940.

Reception Opening Times:

Mon to Fri – 8.00am to 6.30pm

Flu Vaccination Update

If you are aged 50 and over, or under 50 and have a long term medical condition, e.g. asthma, COPD, heart disease, diabetes etc., you are eligible for a flu vaccination. You should have already received invitations from the surgery to book your appointment and most eligible patients will have already had their vaccination.

We have had some really successful clinics throughout October and November. If you have not already had your vaccine, please contact the surgery and speak to one of our receptionists to book your appointment. If you are unsure if you are eligible, you can contact us and we will check.

Children aged 2-3 year old are also being offered the vaccination. They are offered the nasal vaccination, which is a spray up their nostril. In some cases, parents may prefer the injection for their child and if you let us know, we can arrange this.

All school children from Reception to Year 6 will be offered the nasal flu vaccination in school and this will be done by the School Nursing Team. If your child misses the vaccination in school, you can contact IntraHealth on 0333 358 3397 by clicking option 1 for Greater Manchester followed by option 2 for Bolton. - we will not be able to offer this to your child unless they are in an at risk group.

COVID Booster Vaccination Update

Bolton have number of walk in vaccination clinics. There are plenty of walk in clinics that you can attend for your 1st, 2nd or booster COVID19 vaccination – the Bolton CCG website updates each week where the clinics are - <https://www.boltonft.nhs.uk/keeping-you-safe/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/walk-in-vaccination-clinics/>

You can also book an appointment to one of the national clinics. You can book online via this link - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Extended Access Service

Since October 2022, general practice is here for you for longer as routine appointments become available on evenings and weekends. Local GP practices are working together to offer patients evening and weekend appointments in Farnworth Health Centre.

Enhanced access appointments may include services like cervical screenings and health checks. People will be able to see a member of the general practice team, a GP, nurse or other health professional.

The appointments offered via enhanced access will be held at Farnworth Health Centre and may be with a different clinician than usual. This clinician will have access to your health records and will be able to treat you in the same way as we would.

You can access these appointments by contacting the practice and asking our receptionist or the receptionist may offer you an appointment in this service when you ring for an appointment.

The service runs on:

- Monday to Fridays – 6.30pm to 9.30pm
- Saturdays & Sundays – 8.30am to 5pm

Community Pharmacy Consultation Service

Patients and the general public access community pharmacies for self-care advice and to purchase over the counter medicines. It is sometimes difficult for patients to know when it might be more appropriate to access GP advice.

It's estimated that 6% of all GP consultations, which is 20.4 million appointments per year, could be safely transferred to a community pharmacy. There's good evidence to suggest that the advice given by community pharmacists, as part of a consultation about symptoms of minor illnesses, will result in the same outcome as if the patient went to see their GP or attended an emergency department.

If you contact us for advice on the treatment of minor illnesses, you will be assessed by our trained reception team to determine whether you are suitable for referral to the Community Pharmacy Consultation Service. If you are referred you will be referred to a local pharmacy of your choice. Patients can then contact that pharmacy or wait for the pharmacy to contact them the same day.

Prescription Ordering

The practice will no longer accept prescription requests over the telephone. We are receiving increasing volumes of telephone calls into the practice and our phone lines can be really busy at times, making it more difficult for patients who are poorly to get through to us. We receive a large number of calls from patients requesting repeat prescriptions and this is making the phone lines even busier. We also need to ensure that we are safely prescribing medication to our patients.

There are a number of ways that you can order a repeat prescription:

- Download the NHS App and you can order your regular repeat medication – this is a really accessible app and means that you can order your prescription from anywhere at any time.
- You can sign up to a service with a local pharmacy, who can order your prescription for you. Once signed up, the pharmacy should contact you each month to see what medication you need to order and they will arrange this for you.
- You can order your prescription in writing and post in the prescription box in our waiting area, using the right hand side of your prescription – the list of medications along with all your details – tick the box at the side of each medication you wish to order. If you do not have this anymore, you can write the medications on a piece of paper ensuring you have all your personal details on there – name, DOB and address.

Please note: it takes 48 WORKING hours from the date of ordering your prescription to it being ready for collection.

Thank you for your co-operation.