

# **Old School Surgery – Amended**

## **Practice Closure**

**The practice will be closed on Monday 25/5/20. If you require medical assistance please ring Dalriada Urgent Care on 02825663500**

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## **COVID-19 (coronavirus) update: May 2020**

From Monday 18 May 2020, Public Health for Northern Ireland has issued an update in respect of Covid-19. Symptoms now include:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);

**OR**

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);

**OR**

- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

## **Symptom Checker**

Please click on the link below to access the Public Health Symptom Checker for further advice. (Please copy and paste into your web browser)

<https://check.covid-19.hscni.net/SymptomChecker/Introduction>

## **Testing for COVID-19**

Everyone over five years of age in Northern Ireland with symptoms of coronavirus is now eligible for testing.

Please note testing of HSC staff, care workers and care home residents with and without symptoms will continue to be prioritised in order to protect the most vulnerable from coronavirus outbreaks in care settings

## **When to get tested**

You should get tested in the first 3 days of coronavirus symptoms appearing, although testing is considered effective up until day 5.

No testing should be undertaken after day 5, unless it's for a specific reason which will be agreed on a case by case basis by local microbiologists.

You will also have to be able to maintain strict isolation measures during your commute to a testing center.

## **Testing for the members of the public**

Members of the public can book coronavirus testing if they are experience symptoms as outlined above, these can be booked at: (please copy and paste into your web browser)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

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## **General Information regarding appointments - Amended**

In line with government guidelines the Practice have suspended all routine booking of appointment. We would like to reassure you that we are still available should you need to speak to a doctor. We cannot stress how important it is for you to contact us by telephone if you need medical assistance.

In March like other GP Practices we moved towards a 'total telephone triage system'; whereby every patient contacting the surgery in relation to a medical condition is assessed by one of the doctors. A majority of patients are managed by telephone or asked to attend the surgery if appropriate.

This system enables the Practice to minimise the number of patients attending the practice whilst ensuring safe infection control measures.

We continue to ask that you do not come to the surgery if you have symptoms of covid-19 as outlined above.

You will not be permitted entry to the premises unless you have been advised to attend by one of the GPs or have a prearranged appointment with the treatment room, childhood immunisation clinic or midwife.

We would like to thank all our patients for their on-going co-operation and understanding at this difficult time.

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## **Childhood Immunisations during Covid 19 Outbreak**

During the current COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak there are lots of things that parents are having to think about.

Immunisations protect children from many serious illnesses. To make sure that your child is properly protected it is important that they still get their immunisations on time where possible. Health experts strongly advise that you make and keep your children's immunisation appointments as planned.