



Kensington Group Practice

DONEGALL ROAD AND FINAGHY
Medical Centre

Spring 2020 Practice Newsletter

As we are subject to an evolving situation regarding Covid-19, we must all pay close attention to expert guidance, and follow it, for the good of all.

Please follow the following links for continually updated information for the public about Coronavirus.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

and also our own website

<https://www.kensingtonmedicalcentre.co.uk/>

What is the difference between social distancing, and shielding?

All of us should be practicing social distancing in whatever way we can. Please visit the link for information; however, some of our patients may need to follow this guidance especially stringently.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

However, some of our patients will need to take enhanced measures to protect their health.

Could you, or one of your family members be classified as extremely vulnerable? Please visit the following link for guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19#history>

What is isolation?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

You will understand it has been necessary to make significant adjustments to the way we do things to reduce footfall into our surgery.

To protect staff and other patients, we have taken steps to significantly the number of people coming into our building, or sharing our building at any one time, as this then reduces the risk of any potential community transmission. We would ask for your cooperation with these measures.

More information is available on our website, but in summary:

Due to the ongoing and changing environment in Northern Ireland with regard to the spread of this virus the GP Partners have taken the decision to **TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE DONEGALL ROAD OPEN SURGERY** FROM MONDAY 16TH MARCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

It is also necessary at this time to close our Finaghy Branch site, and consolidate the majority of our services at our main site in Donegall Road.

We fully appreciate this will not be convenient for all, but trust you will understand the exceptional circumstances behind this (for example, it will enable us to continue to function if we had staff absence, for example).

Whilst in our building, please maintain distance from other individuals within the practice. Do not lean over the desk. Wash your hands frequently.

In the main, we are trying to address medical concerns over the phone, restricting attendance to only when it is deemed necessary by the GP. Our Doctors have asked our receptionists to ask some questions about your medical concern, in order to prioritise appropriately.

If after making arrangements to attend the practice, you subsequently develop symptoms associated with Coronavirus - you *MUST* cancel your appointment and seek further advice from the GP.

To avoid unnecessary contacts, please order your prescriptions online or by telephone.

To avoid having to attend the surgery to collect your prescription, please tell the receptionist which of our local pharmacies you would like it sent to.

Please allow a little extra time for your prescriptions to be prepared at this unprecedentedly busy time, but do not order extra or stockpile.