

# PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH



**FRIENDS OF DAVENPORT HOUSE**

**BULLETIN NO 18 – FEBRUARY 2021 (2)**

## VACCINATION UPDATE

*By Lindsey Wright, Practice Operations Manager*



If you have been invited down to the vaccination centre at the Harpenden Halls in the last few weeks, it is quite possible that you have seen some familiar Davenport faces. Our nurses Heather, Mary, Helen, Sharon, Rosie and Christina have all been down there at various times as have Drs Thenuwara, Cashyap, Yasotharan, Bagga and Kirsop.

As some of you may be aware Dr Thenuwara has been instrumental in helping get the vaccination centre up and running and is one of 3 Harpenden GPs who has taken on the responsibility of running each clinic along with an operational lead. This means that it might be slightly harder to get an appointment with Dr Thenuwara in the next few weeks while the vaccine centre develops, but we do still have plenty of clinicians back at the Surgery (see overleaf) who are more than capable of dealing with any medical issues you may be having. It will also mean that the days each GP is working at the Surgery will change week on week depending on when they are needed at the centre.

We are doing everything we can to maintain as many of the normal services at the Surgery as well as vaccinating as many people as possible against Covid, but please bear in mind it is not always possible to keep the number or flexibility of appointments that would usually be the case.

We are proud to say we have managed to vaccinate all our eligible patients in all our care homes across Harpenden and shortly we will have made it out to all our vulnerable patients who are unable to get to the Public Halls.

As you may be aware from the news, we are now able to move into priority group 5, having invited everyone from groups 1-4, more than 90% of whom have been vaccinated. We are hugely grateful to all the volunteers, of which there are many, who have made this vaccination programme possible. We really couldn't have done it without you. So a very big thank you to all those involved, including GPs, nurses, volunteers and you the patients.

**Please see a copy of Matt Hancock's (Secretary of State for Health and Social Care) letter to our MP, Bim Afolami congratulating Harpenden Health PCN on one of the highest performing vaccination areas on the back page.**

## **CLINICIAN UPDATE AT THE PRACTICE**

***By Lindsey Wright, Practice Operations Manager***

As many of you may not have visited the Surgery in many months I thought I would keep you updated on who we have working here as some of the clinical roles are new and we have a number of new faces. Many of these roles have been granted to us through the Primary Care Network (PCN) which means we share the services across all three Harpenden Practices. This may mean that they only work a few days here at Davenport House or they may work remotely.

As a training Practice we have a number of registrars joining us and moving on once their training is fulfilled. We currently have with us:

Dr Uddin  
Dr Siddique  
Dr Gurung  
Dr Durani

One of our Doctors may refer you to speak to one of our social prescribers. We currently have two; Sonya Chitty and Florentina Argenio.

We now employ three clinical pharmacists who may contact you to talk about your medications. They are Rachael Solanki, Minal Patel and Melisa Kerai.

We have two first contact physiotherapists, Lisa Simmonds and Miranda Lyell who will assess any musculoskeletal issues for you. You will not be booked in for a course of treatment with these physiotherapists, they will assess you and refer you to get the treatment you need, the same way a GP would.

Physicians Associates (PAs) are a new role to primary care and we have Dhara Patel and Zoe Tranter working with us. They are currently working alongside and supporting our on the day triage team of the duty Doctor and our Minor illness nurse.

## **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

***By John Harris***

We would normally look to interview and provide a profile of new faces joining the Surgery and/or the Primary Care Network, but clearly this is not possible during the continued lockdown. However, we shall do so as soon as we have more freedom of movement and it becomes safe for us to have contact with Surgery staff.

**Please don't ring the Surgery enquiring about a Covid-19 vaccination as calls are blocking the switchboard and an appointment cannot be given. You will receive an invitation in due course.**

**Disclaimer:** All information, content, and material in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the consultation, diagnosis, and/or medical treatment of a qualified physician or healthcare provider.



## Department of Health & Social Care

From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

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Bim Afolami MP  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
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22 February 2021

Dear Bim,

I wanted to write to you to let you know that Harpenden Health PCN is one of the highest performing vaccination areas in the country.

Having heard further about the amazing efforts in Harpenden, I would like to further thank the people of Harpenden for coming together in these difficult times to deliver a truly inspiring community effort. The challenge of the vaccination programme brought together our NHS, local government, local charities and groups and over 700 volunteers to protect the most vulnerable residents quickly and effectively. I would like to thank all of them and give a special mention to some of the individuals and groups below.

The three GP surgeries (the Harpenden Health PCN) are at the heart of your response. I would like to specially thank Clinical Director, Dr David Hemsi and clinical leads Dr Tania Goodwin and Dr Chas Thenuwara, ably supported by the local practice managers and Zoe Matthews from the St Albans and Harpenden GP Federation. Hayley Geurts has done a fantastic job running the Vaccination Centre.

All three tiers of local government have worked together to support your response. Cllr Mary Maynard, the Founder and Chair of Harpenden Cares and Cllr Teresa Heritage, a local County Councillor have helped ensure seamless support from local Councils, and Harpenden Town Council also deserves a special mention for running the Volunteer Test Centre.

The Harpenden Trust, led by Pat Ring and Richard Nichols have managed the volunteer effort, identifying over 700 volunteers eager to support the effort. I have heard about how efficient they have been and the warm welcoming atmosphere they have created.

Harpenden has been a magnificent example of how a whole community can come together to deliver a truly outstanding result. I would like to congratulate and thank you for your effort to date. Our Government is doing everything it can to ensure the vaccination programme rolls out speedily and effectively, and know that you will soon be able to look back and be proud of what your community has achieved.

Yours ever,

MATT HANCOCK