

Coronavirus (Covid 19).

The Government and Public Health England have recently updated their advice regarding Coronavirus in order to protect the most vulnerable individuals in our community. This will mean more people needing to self isolate at home. The change in guidance regarding isolation will help reduce the speed at which the virus spreads but will also mean a significant proportion of our patient population will either be in isolation or social distancing. This creates additional logistical issues in all aspects of daily life often for those with most health needs.

We will endeavour to react to this, but would ask for community volunteers to offer to help in whatever way they can with medication collections from dispensary, shopping or simply picking up the telephone to check on your neighbours and reduce the risk of social isolation.

Yealm Medical Centre has adapted to these changes to reduce the risk to the community and we are as prepared as we can be with the significant additional workload this will cause, and a need to be flexible in how we work in order to meet the needs of our patient population. We are now operating a fully telephone triage system for all GP appointments in order to prioritise face to face appointments, deal with as much as possible safely over the telephone, and make arrangements to see patients with possible Covid19 symptoms in a safe environment that protects our other patients and staff. We have fully operational procedures and business continuity plans to be able to adapt to the changing situation.

We work in a very supportive community and we have no doubt that you will all want to help each other out. Together we can keep our community safe and work together to protect our most vulnerable neighbours.

Drs Davies, Cooper, Morrison, Goodall, Jack and Seddon
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