From: **Victoria Medical Centre Patient Group** vmcppg@live.co.uk
Subject: [Test] VMC PPG NEWS April 2021
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To: beagleeditions@gmail.com

Victoria Medical Centre PPG Patient Participation Group

VMC PATIENT UPDATES

A NEW APP FOR YOUR MOBILE PHONE

If you have signed up for VMC's online services you could benefit by having your patient records always on hand wherever you are on your mobile phone. Not only would you be able to contact the practice, make an appointment, arrange a video consultation, renew your prescription, see your test results etc all on your mobile, if you had to go to A & E in an emergency the medics would have immediate access to your patient records. A patient at VMC, a retired nurse, thoroughly recommends this new app, called 'Airmid', which replaces the old 'SystmOnline' app. You can find out more about it by going to the Home Page of VMC's website and clicking on ONLINE SERVICES.

VMC's AUDIOLOGY SERVICE IS NOW AVAILABLE

If you are struggling with your hearing, you can speak to your GP who will refer you to a trained audiologist. Appointments are usually within two weeks of referral and your results received within two days. If suitable, you can have a hearing aid fitted on the same day. You can also choose to access private ear wax micro-suction, a simple, safe and comfortable form of ear wax removal.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

Patients should ring or email VMC in the first instance and the practice will do its best to direct you to the appropriate service.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

VMC VACCINATION STATISTICS as at 27 April 2021

42.1% of VMC patients have been offered the covid vaccine and **30% of all patients** have been vaccinated. In the key age ranges VMC is following up these outstanding patients:

110 asthma patients remain from a starting figure of 544
89 diabetic patients remain from a starting figure of 763
140 patients aged 45–49 remain from a starting figure of 1,296

ARE YOU DUE A 1st OR 2nd VACCINATION?

Firstly, on your mobile phone look out for a text message with a link that will take you through to the appointments booking page where you can book your

appointment at a vaccination site at a date and time most convenient to you.

You can also book your vaccination appointment via the NHS National Booking Portal: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/

OR by calling 119 free of charge.

OR You can also be vaccinated at the Portman Pharmacy, 93–95 Tachbrook Street, SW1V 2QA. Please call the pharmacy on 202 7834 2816 to make an appointment.

Alternatively, walk-in vaccinations are available at the large NHS Covid Vaccination Centre at Marble Arch: 86 Edgware Road, W2 2EA, entrance on Forset Street. Please take proof of your age, name, address and NHS number if you have it. NOTE that walk-in appointments are only for those who have not yet had their first vaccine and are on a first-come first-served basis.

TESTING FOR CORONAVIRUS

What is the difference between a PCR test and a Lateral Flow Test (also known as a Rapid Antigen Test)?

A PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test is a diagnostic test that looks for the genetic code of the virus in a sample taken from a nose and throat swab. The test will confirm if an individual who is showing symptoms of the virus currently has it. It will not confirm whether you have had a past infection and recovered. The test has to be sent to a laboratory to be analysed and can take from 1 to 3 days to return a result.

A PCR TEST IS MAINLY FOR PEOPLE WITH SYMPTOMS. If you have symptoms you can either book an appointment for a test at NHS-online or by calling 119. Alternatively, you can order a home PCR test kit online at GOV.UK. to check if you have coronavirus.

A Lateral Flow Test (Rapid Antigen Test) also involves a sample taken from a nose and throat swab but is quite different. Rather than detecting viral genetic material, a Lateral Flow Test detects proteins specific to the coronavirus. The test does not require laboratory analysis so it can be done at home with a

test does not require laboratory analysis so it can be done at home with a positive or negative result in around 30 minutes.

LATERAL FLOW TESTS ARE ONLY FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS. If you are symptom-free you can collect a Lateral Flow Test from the Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, SW1P 3NZ seven days a week between 10.00 and 4.00 pm, and from Grosvenor Hall, Vincent Street, SW1P 4HB between 2.30 pm and 8.00 pm. You can also order free home test kits online from GOV.UK. Even if you do not have symptoms – and even if you have been vaccinated – you should have a Lateral Flow Test twice a week if you think you might have been in contact with an infected person. If you test positive then you should arrange for a PCR test, as explained above.

For more about testing for coronavirus go to https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/testing

For an overview of the latest NHS information and advice about coronavirus go to the VMC website

http://victoriamedicalcentre.com

Best wishes,

Mary Orr
Chairman, VMC PPG

VMC Patient Participation Group

Email

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You gave us your email address or agreed for the practice to share it with us.

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United Kingdom

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

mailchimp