

## **Hot site update letter for residents in the Deneway Surgery vicinity**

08 September 2020

Dear Resident,

The Preston Park Community Primary Care Network (PPC PCN) would like to keep you informed of developments to our Covid-19 management strategy.

Warmdene Surgery has been asked by the PPC PCN to use its facilities at the Deneway branch surgery as a temporary hot site for their own and the PPC PCN's suspected Covid patients. This will be achieved on a strictly controlled basis, ensuring appropriate guidelines are followed for infection control. Warmdene Surgery, at County Oak Medical Centre, will continue to operate normally as a cold site for all of its registered patients.

### **What is a hot site?**

Hot sites are formed by a group of practices coming together and identifying a single dedicated site to offer patients from their practices face-to-face consultation following an initial assessment via a telephone or video call. They do not undertake testing for Covid-19 at the hot site.

Hot sites are a requirement by NHS England for all practices/PCN's.

Hot sites are restricted areas situated away from the doctor's surgeries where Covid-19 suspected patients can see a clinician for other conditions, like pre-existing diabetes, kidney disease or heart complaints.

Patients are referred to be seen at the hot site by their GP and given an appointment date and time. They must travel to the hot site by car and are seen inside the Deneway Surgery under strict guidelines to ensure patient, staff and community safety.

### **Why is this hot site being opened at this time?**

Previously there was a city-wide provision for reviewing patients with suspected Covid-19 at the Withdean Stadium. This site closed from the end of August 2020. Therefore, to continue to review our patients in a timely and safe manner, the PCN will jointly manage Covid-19 suspected patients using our own hot site at the Deneway Branch Surgery with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The PPC PCN has chosen the Deneway Branch Surgery to use as a central and accessible venue for a very limited number of patients to use.

### **Keeping the community safe**

Covid patients being seen away from the GP practice in a hot site means that the safety of GP practice teams is maintained, and that of the patients attending with no coronavirus symptoms. Health care is maintained for those patients with Covid allowing them to still be able to be treated for their other conditions in a safe environment.

Infection control measures set by government experts will be followed at the hot site and residents can be reassured of their safety, even when they are close to any site that is seeing patients with Covid symptoms. At a minimum, a full deep clean will be completed at the hot site each day after any appointments have taken place.

Some key principles to share with you at this stage are:

For the majority of patients, Covid-19 will only be a mild illness, presenting with symptoms similar to a 'common cold'. These patients with only mild symptoms will not need input from a doctor.

For other patients, Covid-19 is a more serious disease and it is important to be able to assess these patients in a timely and safe manner.

As of the beginning of September 2020, the number of patients with Covid-19 is low in the Sussex area. Attendance at the hot site will be by appointment only after clinical triage by our doctors. The entrance to the surgery will be locked with controlled entry for patients by appointment only.

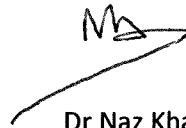
We want to assure you that we are following national guidelines to keep our patients and staff safe and also our neighbouring residents in the vicinity of the hot site.

For further information, please email our PCN team at [bhccg.prestonparkcommunitypcn@nhs.net](mailto:bhccg.prestonparkcommunitypcn@nhs.net)

Yours faithfully



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