

Message from Kelvedon and Feering Health Centre and Dickens Place Surgery

COVID19 Update Important Patient Notice

As lockdown eases we are expecting an increase in footfall at the surgery.

All patients will be required to wear a mask or face covering when entering the surgery and when attending a face to face appointment with a Clinician.

This is for the ongoing Safety of all Patients & Staff as outlined in the Government Guidance.

We apologise but we will be unable to supply face masks or face coverings to patients.

This will become mandatory from Monday 22nd June 2020.

ANTIBODY TEST KITS FOR HOME USE

Some UK providers such as high street pharmacies and private healthcare providers offer COVID-19 antibody testing for members of the public. The test involves taking a fingerprick blood sample. The laboratory tests are CE marked and safe for use on blood drawn from the vein by a healthcare professional, but have not yet been validated by the manufacturer of the test to be used with a fingerpick blood sample.

It's very important for people at home to be able to understand the reliability of the result and what it means for them. A positive result may not mean a person is immune or if they demonstrate immunity now, or how long this will last.

The Government strongly advises members of the public or organisations who have purchased these tests and received antibody results to continue to follow the Government's advice whatever the result of the test. The Government is contacting providers of the antibody testing services and the laboratories running these tests to ask them to temporarily stop offering these tests for sale until the regulatory and safety concerns have been resolved.

119 CALL CENTRE

By calling the 119 call centre, members of the public who don't have online access can book a coronavirus swab test and ask any questions relating to having a test and getting results.

UPDATE TO SHIELDING GUIDANCE

Now that the peak has passed and the prevalence of Covid-19 in the community has reduced, the Secretary of State announced that those advised to shield can take initial steps to safely spend time outdoors. The shielding guidance is now updated to reflect this announcement and will lay out how a shielded person can go outside once a day with members of their household or, for those shielding alone, with one other person from a different household. This is in accordance with evidence that the rate of transmission is much lower outside.

Some important aspects of the guidance will remain the same. Apart from going outside once per day, as outlined above, a shielded person should continue to avoid all non-essential face to face contact. This means

they should not go to places like supermarkets or to pharmacies. The support for shielded people remains in place and unchanged.

As with all shielding policy, this is advice and is not mandatory. If a shielded person does not feel comfortable going outside once a day then that is of course up to them.

The Government has also confirmed that it will be reviewing shielding guidance alongside wider changes to social distancing, including plans to write to those on the shielding patients list with information about next steps on shielding after the next review on 15 June 2020.

[These notices have also been posted on the KFHC website.](#)

Please note that as we receive further updates and guidance on Coronavirus from NHS England and other organisations, we will continue to share these with you. To help us reach as many people in the community as we can with up to date and consistent messaging, we are sharing updates through various channels e.g.: KFHC website, Feering and Kelvedon Parish Councils, Village Facebook pages via the Parish Councils, local community groups and organisations. Messages will be date stamped, so that you can track updates.

Accessing Dental Care in England from 8 June



From 8 June dental practices are able to open. Practices will need to prioritise patients with the most urgent need.

If you need help from a dentist:

- contact your dental practice by phone or email.
- you will be given advice or offered an appointment if appropriate.
- for urgent dental care you can also use the NHS 111 online service.

Please do not visit your practice unless you've been advised to. This will ensure the practice can continue to provide essential care safely.

