

# COVID 19 Information

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## New Islington Medical Practice

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### STAFF:

ALL STAFF at the practice have been made aware of government and local guideline in relation to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Please note that our staff have the right to work free from abuse, harassment or bullying.

The surgery has a ZERO Tolerance policy which is still in effect during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Our staff will abide by the government advice, policies and procedures which include self-isolation if showing symptoms of the virus, this may mean that we have some staff shortages and things may take a little longer to process. The practice is doing all it can to keep staff and patients safe during this time.

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### APPOINTMENTS:

All routine and urgent appointments are currently being transferred to telephone consultation where possible with both the GPs and Nurse. Routine blood tests, B12s and other ongoing appointments are currently being cancelled to be booked in at a later date. This is to reduce the number of patients entering the building in line with the government advice.

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### ENTERING THE BUILDING:

**Please do not enter the building unless invited to by a GP or Nurse.** Repeat prescriptions can be emailed to the surgery at [nmccg.nimp@nhs.net](mailto:nmccg.nimp@nhs.net).

Remember, before seeing the GP or nurse you will need to **wash your hands.**

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### REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS:

The practice is doing its best to manage all prescription requests in a timely manner. Where possible the practice will authorise this month's medication and a forward dated prescription for 4 weeks' time directly to your chosen pharmacy.

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### NOMINATED PHARMACY:

It is advised that all patients have their medication sent electronically to their nominated pharmacy, please speak to your local pharmacy to sign up this service when seeing or speaking to a doctor or nurse during a telephone call or appointment please check we have this information on our system (this can be changed at any time)

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### **ASTHMA INHALERS:**

**Please note** that the practice WILL NOT prescribe an inhaler if not clinically required or if you need it as a precaution in related to the coronavirus outbreak. If you think you need an inhaler that you have not used for some time, please complete an online ASTHMA review consultation by following this link: <https://www.online-consult.co.uk/org/new-islington-medical-practice/start/34/85> You will then be contacted by the Nurse regarding your request.

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### **STEROID INHALERS:**

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, we are having increasing requests for prescriptions of steroid inhalers. Please note that steroid inhalers are helpful for symptoms of asthma such as wheeze and cough but are not used for viral infections. If your asthma is stable and you do not have symptoms then you **do not** need a steroid inhaler.

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### **PARACETAMOL:**

The demand for paracetamol on prescription has also increased since the outbreak of coronavirus. Paracetamol is available over the counter and if you have not been prescribed paracetamol by the practice for pain or other reason recently then the GP / Nurse will review this request and decide according to your clinical need.

#### ADULT DOSE:

<https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/paracetamol-for-adults/>

#### CHILDRENS DOSE:

<https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/paracetamol-for-children/>

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### **IBUPROFEN:**

There is currently no strong evidence that ibuprofen can make coronavirus (COVID-19) worse.

But until we have more information, **paracetamol would be more preferable to use for treatment of the symptoms of coronavirus**, unless your doctor has told you paracetamol is not suitable for you or your child. If you or your child are already taking ibuprofen or another non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) on the advice of a doctor, do not stop taking it without checking first.

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### **FIT NOTES(Sicknote) / SELF ISOLATION NOTES:**

Please see the gov.uk website for further information on self-isolation. GP Practices **will not** be issuing Fit notes for self-isolation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

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