



Dear Neighbour,

This winter the NHS is set to face a new challenge.

Unfortunately Covid-19 can appear to be similar to many viruses and infections that we commonly see over the winter months, so GP surgeries and the rest of the NHS is making provisions to enable us to face this challenge and care for our patients safely.

In general practice the model we used locally for the first wave of Covid-19 was to have a Covid Assessment Centre located at the St Andrews site in South Ham. Any patient with potential Covid-19 infection needing assessment was seen at this site, allowing other GP surgeries to continue to see non-Covid patients safely. This worked well and enabled normal general practice to continue – that is crucial because we must continue to support patients with chronic conditions, needing antenatal and postnatal care, or cancer screening and immunisations, to name just a few key services which are essential for the long term health of our population.

Six months on we have learned a lot from the experience of running the St Andrews site, and all the work locally and nationally to protect people during the pandemic.

We wanted to inform our neighbours that, between 2 November 2020 and 31 March 2021, the Old Basing Surgery will operate as a Winter Assessment Centre. The centre will see patients from across the North Hampshire GP practices who have contacted their own GP practice with symptoms of a winter virus or infection, and who need a face-to-face appointment. We will ensure that appointments are staggered throughout the day and avoid the beginning and end of the school day.

This approach will mean we can see patients with the illnesses we commonly see in general practice over the winter, plus patients with potential Covid-19 infection, in a way that is safe for all – and also continue to provide our other services for everyone else.

We hope that this change will allow all our patients to be confident that they can get the care they need, no matter what their condition, safely.

If you have any questions, please contact us on 01256 868370 and we will do our best to answer any queries you raise.

Very best wishes,

Dr Raffi Assadourian,  
Senior Partner, Odiham and Old Basing Surgery