

Coronavirus update 3 April 2020

Welcome to week three of our coronavirus crisis newsletters.

Firstly, thank you all so much. By staying at home, and restricting your contacts with us, you are helping the national effort to overcome the virus and creating space for the increasing number of our patients needing care for coronavirus.

And this number is now starting to rise. We know of coronavirus cases at both practices and sadly have also had our first notifications that some have died.

In Quinton, we are now seeing patients with suspected coronavirus in a shared unit at Quinton Family Practice (our 'red' site). In Nechells, we continue to see patients with suspected coronavirus in a designated 'red' room at the surgery.

Within days we expect to start using the new centre at the NEC for patients with suspected coronavirus. We then plan to use Quinton Family Practice as an 'amber' site in Quinton and are looking for a similar 'amber' site in Nechells. These will be for patients who are ill for other reasons and need to be seen.

All this will make our base sites safer for the patients we still need to see for important matters such as immunisations and other routine care.

Another major development due in the next week will be a roving visiting service, shared between practices, for patients who need to be seen but cannot travel.

Our service continues to change daily as the outbreak proceeds. Please bookmark our website, especially our homepage and the latest news page www.ridgacremedicalcentres.com. This week we have added further information about the government-defined groups of 'vulnerable' and 'extremely vulnerable' patients, resources for self-management of several long-term conditions, and for anyone suffering domestic abuse – something which is sadly more common during this stay at home period. Do also follow us on Twitter: @RidgacreMedical.

This week we have been down 3 doctors, 7 receptionists and 2 colleagues in administration. A big shout to all our nurses, none of whom have been off! We continue to be supported by our locum doctors and our self-isolating doctors have continued to work when they can, consulting remotely from home.

The Ridgacre Team