

## Marden Medical Centre Patient Participation Group



# News Update

### Marden Medical Centre News:

For the latest Marden Medical Centre updates please refer to the Surgery website:

<https://www.mardenmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/>

### Infection Control - New measures from June'22

In early June'22, NHS England reframed the guidance to practices about issues especially the wearing of masks to start to transition to a pre-pandemic state. Patients are not required to wear a mask or face covering when attending the Practice unless they have respiratory symptoms however, we have encouraged all patients to continue to do so.

We are also still seeing patients with respiratory symptoms or fever in the hot zone in the cabin. The surge in cases which has followed the Jubilee Weekend and an increase in mixing has vindicated this choice as numbers rise.

Our staff continue to take extra control measures on handwashing and cleaning, to wear masks in communal areas and when seeing patients (although this is deemed discretionary) and we are still testing twice weekly. The policy is under constant review according to local levels as well as staffing pressures and risks

### Face-to-Face Consultations

The numbers of patients being seen face to face is steadily rising however many are still very comfortably managed by telephone, text, video or e-consult. The receptionists can book in person appointments for certain conditions, if availability allows however we still frequently offer a triage call from a GP or paramedic to decide when and how patient's needs are to be met - as overall demand for appointments is rising some prioritisation is essential.

### Marden Medical Centre Website Refresh

The Surgery website 'look and feel' as changed recently. Navigation should be easier for patients to find what they are looking for. If anyone has any comments, identifies any errors or has any feedback, please let the Surgery or the PPG know.

## Other News:

### 'Sick or Fit for Work Notes'

Effective 1<sup>st</sup> July '22 - Pharmacists and some other healthcare professionals, other than just GPs, will be able to sign people off-sick from work, under new rules. The law change will take effect in July and apply across England, Wales and Scotland. The aim is to free up GPs time.

People off work for more than seven consecutive days because of illness may need to show a note from a healthcare professional to their employer. These "fit notes" say if they are:

- "unfit for work"
- "may be fit for work" subject to some adaptations in the workplace or role

Nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists (working in hospitals and GP practices) and physiotherapists will be able to provide the notes, **in addition to GPs**.

## Sporting Memories Group

Marden Sporting Memories is a club where older adults can get together to chat about sport as well as take part in a full range of competitions, sports and can discuss memories of sport from times gone by.

The charity runs clubs across England, Scotland and Wales and uses the power of remembering and talking about sport – along with physical exercise – to tackle dementia, depression, and loneliness in older people.

Sporting Memories clubs also provide social and physical activities that allow older people and all those connected with them, from family members and carers, to have fun whilst creating relationships and companionship with people in their local community. [The Sporting Memories Foundation \(sportingmemoriesnetwork.com\)](https://www.sportingmemoriesnetwork.com)

For further details contact Sue Eltringham via [MardenSportingMemories@gmail.com](mailto:MardenSportingMemories@gmail.com) or call 01622 833053

**Love talking sport?**

We welcome you to the new Sporting Memories Group, which is open to all sports enthusiasts where you can discuss your memories of sport from times gone by.

**Every Tuesday 2.30- 4.30pm**

Marden Cricket & Hockey Club, Maidstone Road, Marden, TN12 9AG

**Starting Tuesday 2nd August**

Come along, listen and share sporting memories with other older sports fans.

**Free to Join - Free refreshments - Free Parking ( Full Disabled Access)**

For more information please e-mail [MardenSportingMemories@gmail.com](mailto:MardenSportingMemories@gmail.com) or call Sue Eltringham 01622 833053

Kent County Council KentSport 2019 SPORTING MEMORIES FOUNDATION

[www.sportingmemoriesnetwork.com](http://www.sportingmemoriesnetwork.com)