



*110 Union Road, London, SW8 2SH*

*Tel: 020 3049 4600 - Fax: 020 3049 4601*

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Dear Patients,

The Government lockdown has now been in place for several weeks. This has had a good effect on cases of COVID-19 and we are seeing fewer cases of respiratory illness both here and at local hospitals. It is still too early to know at this stage what course this pandemic will take over the coming weeks but we hope this trend will continue. The measures put in place over social distancing, hand washing and staying at home as much as possible are still very important to follow and we encourage you all to keep going with those.

At the same time, we have noticed that people may not be accessing healthcare as perhaps they should be. We still remain very much open for patients and would encourage people to contact us with any health problems they may have. We continue to operate using different ways of seeing people and the feedback so far has been very positive; E-consultations, telephone and video consultation are set to be the new norm alongside traditional face to face appointments.

If you have a medical problem, please do get in touch with us. Referrals for onward care such as blood tests, x-rays and seeing specialists remain severely limited but that does not mean that you should not deal with any health issues you may have. Medical problems such as diabetes, hypertension and depression still require reviews and treatment and we are still here to help so please do contact us should you need to. Over the coming weeks, we will be continuing to pro-actively contact people with particular known health problems to make sure they continue to access medical care and know what to do should their health care needs change.

We are also still putting as much helpful information on our website as possible so please make use of that resource. Some new updates have been made around shielding advice and I would encourage people to read this as we have had a number of specific queries about this topic.

Thank you,

Dr Neel Basudev