

## **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Statement for Patients**

Keeping our patients and staff safe is a priority for us. This Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) statement explains what we do to reduce the risk of infection and how you can help when you visit the practice.

### **What We Are Doing to Keep You Safe**

#### **Clean, Safe Environment**

- We follow the National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness.
- Clinical rooms, waiting areas, and high-touch surfaces are cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- We carry out routine audits to check cleanliness and take action where needed.

#### **Strong Infection Control Procedures**

- All staff complete annual IPC training.
- We follow strict hand hygiene, PPE, and decontamination procedures.
- Medical equipment is cleaned between every patient.

#### **Monitoring & Risk Assessments**

We complete regular risk assessments, including:

- Legionella (water safety)
- Sharps safety
- Waste management
- Respiratory infection controls

Any incidents or concerns are reviewed and acted on quickly.

#### **Managing Respiratory Illness**

- We maintain good ventilation in clinical areas.
- Masks are available for anyone who wishes to wear one.
- Staff follow national guidance for managing respiratory infections.

#### **Responsible Antibiotic Use**

- We support antimicrobial stewardship to help reduce antibiotic resistance.
- Clinicians follow national prescribing guidelines and provide safety-netting advice.

## **What You Can Do to Help**

### **Practice Good Hand Hygiene**

- Use the hand sanitiser provided when entering and leaving the building.
- Wash your hands after using the toilet and before touching your face.

### **If You Have Symptoms of a Respiratory Infection**

- Consider wearing a face covering in the practice.
- Tell reception if you have a cough, fever, or breathlessness so we can seat you safely.
- Do not attend if you have vomiting or diarrhoea—please call us for advice.

### **Arrive on Time**

- Arriving on time helps us manage patient flow and reduce crowding in waiting areas.

### **Supervise Children**

Please keep children with you at all times to help maintain a safe environment.

### **Dispose of Waste Properly**

- Use the bins provided for tissues and masks.
- Do not bring food or drink into clinical areas.

## **Our Commitment to You**

We are committed to providing safe, high-quality care. We regularly review our infection control procedures and update them in line with national guidance from the NHS, UKHSA, and the Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice.

If you have any questions or concerns about infection prevention and control, please speak to a member of our team.