Cofton Medical Centre

Infection and Prevention Control Statement 2020/21

2020/21 has been a year like no other and infection control has never been so important. At Cofton we take the safety of our patients and staff very seriously and have made many changes to our practice to reduce the risk and spread of Covid 19.

The last formal IPC audit was carried out in February 2020 but the website was not updated due to the rapidly evolving Corona virus situation. However the changes highlighted by the audit were implemented and this included repair and upgrading of patient toilets and disabled facilities and minor but essential repair work in multiple clinical rooms. Progress in clinical rooms to remove carpets was also continued.

Since March 2020 practice has quickly and continuously evolved to keep up with changing IPC guidelines in a time of Covid 19.

We have reduced footfall through the surgery by moving, where possibly to telephone and video consultations, divided the surgery into zones to reduce potential contamination and have strict cleaning protocols between each patient seen within the practice. Staff have been trained in donning and doffing PPE and a strict decontamination protocol has been planned and implemented when screening has failed to prevent patients with potential Covid 19 symptoms being seen in the surgery.

PPE is worn at all times when seeing patients. Initially this was difficult due to national shortages but we were able to maintain safe practice due to generous donations from the public and businesses. Supplies of PPE are no longer an issue as they are now supplied via an NHS distribution network.

Issues with waste management arising from increased waste due to new Covid 19 IPC practices have been resolved by the practice securing a weekly clinical waste collection.

All clinical staff are now carrying out twice weekly lateral flow testing to reduce onward spread of asymptomatic infection.

A formal IPC audit of the practice will be carried out in Feb/March 2021 and will be available on the website.