

# Why are GP Practices still working differently?

## If the Pandemic is over why aren't GP practices open?

**The pandemic is not over.** GP practices worked hard to provide a service throughout lockdown and continue to do so. To protect everyone, we must maintain safe infection control and minimise unnecessary physical contact.

### How are practices working now?

Most appointments are being triaged. This helps keep you safe and makes sure the people with the greatest need are contacted first. We will see everyone in person who needs to be seen that way.

### Where else can I get help?

Visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) for advice on common symptoms and a list of local services or speak to your community pharmacist first for advice on minor illnesses.

Find your nearest:

[nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-pharmacy/](http://nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-pharmacy/)

### Why do receptionists ask personal questions?

GP reception staff are a vital part of the health care team and ask questions to direct you to the best support. They are supported by the highly trained clinical teams and are skilled in assisting with triage. They also work to strict codes of patient confidentiality.

### I wanted to see my GP, so why am I seeing someone else?

Many GP practices now include a range of professionals (e.g. physician associates, pharmacists, paramedics, advanced nurse practitioners) who can diagnose and treat health conditions. This ensures that you see the right person at the right time more quickly.

### What is triage?

You will be assessed to decide who needs:

- to be seen in person
- a phone consultation
- a video consultation
- help from a community pharmacy.

### What about emergencies

Always dial 999 in a life-threatening emergency. If you need help with minor injuries at any time or urgent care when your GP practice or community pharmacy is closed visit [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) or dial 111 if you do not have internet access.

## Please be patient

Our health services are under enormous pressure- local GP's are seeing 30% rise in demand-but we are open and here if needed. Our GP's still run an out of hours service for emergencies. You can help us and help yourself by making sure you get the right care, in the right place, at the right time appropriate for your needs. Staff should be treated with respect and consideration at all times, so please continue to be kind to our staff, socially distance where possible and wear a face mask in healthcare settings.

**Together  
we can  
choose  
well**