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## Coronavirus: GP practice closes surgery and follows up appointments by phone



Simon Parkin



Published: 7:38 AM March 13, 2020 Updated: 7:22 PM November 22, 2020



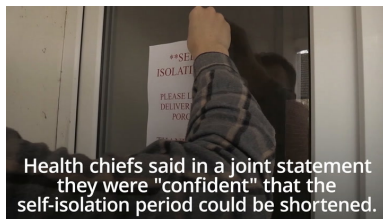
Long Stratton Medical Partnership surgery on Swan Lane. The practice has introduced measures to protect patients from coronavirus. Picture: Google - Credit: Google

## Coronavirus : All you need to know about self-isolation

Keeping away from friends, relatives and public transport are all recommendations for self-isolation during the Covi...

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Health chiefs said in a joint statement they were "confident" that the self-isolation period could be shortened.

Self-isolation For Covid-19 Contacts And International Arrivals Cut To 10 Days



Boris Johnson has confirmed that the swathes of people self-isolating in the UK must continue to do so.

Boris Johnson: Those self-isolating must continue to do so



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A GP practice has closed one of its surgeries and is following up appointment bookings over the phone to see if it is necessary for patients to attend in person as part of its response to coronavirus.



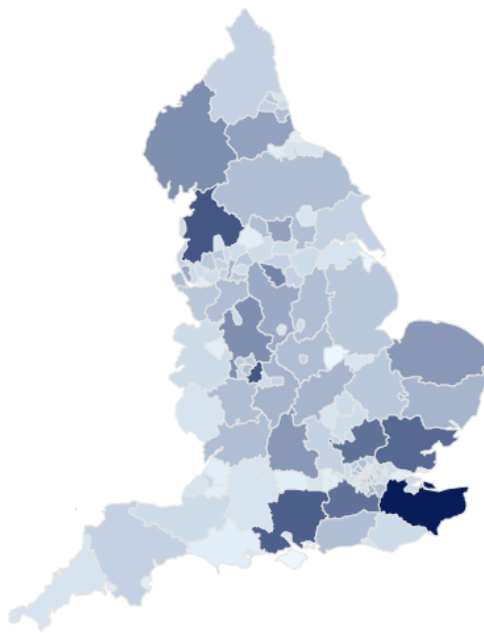
Three patients have tested positive for coronavirus in Norfolk. Picture: Ben Birchall/PA Wire - Credit: PA

Long Stratton Medical Partnership said it has closed its branch surgery at Newton Flotman as a temporary measure.

A 'lock-down period' from noon and 3pm each day has also been introduced so that chronic on the day respiratory patients can be seen, 'limiting the risk to others'.

# Confirmed cases of coronavirus in England

Updated: May 26



0 400 800 1,200 1,600 2,000 2,400 2,800 3,200 3,600 4,000 4,400 4,800

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Location	Cases	Cases per 100,000 people	Population
Barking and Dagenham	496	233	212,906
Barnet	1,285	324.6	395,869
Barnsley	923	373.9	246,866
Bath and North East Somerset	232	120	193,282
Bedford	611	352.6	173,292
Bexley	713	287.2	248,287
Birmingham	3,425	300	1,141,816
Blackburn with Darwen	407	271.9	149,696
Blackpool	620	444.6	139,446
Bolton	1,001	348.1	287,550
Bournemouth	477	120.7	395,331
Brecknell Forest	252	226.4	112,540

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A spokesman for the Norfolk and Waveney NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups said: 'As the Chief Medical Officer has said, routine non-urgent services in the NHS could well come under pressure as a result of the coronavirus, and so GPs are preparing a number of practical solutions to effectively respond this outbreak.

'As part of these robust plans and as a precaution to protect patients, staff and the public, appointments may be followed up with a call by the surgery, to make sure patients see the right person in the right place for their illness.'





The branch surgery in Newton Flotman that has been closed as a temporary measure due to coronavirus. Picture: Long Stratton Medical Partnership - Credit: Long Stratton Medical Partnership

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Appointments normally held at Newton Flotman are now taking place at the Long Stratton surgery in Swan Lane, which remains open, to make the best use of staff resources whilst the workload remains busy.

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'This is a temporary and precautionary measure,' the spokesman added.



## If you have been to any affected areas in the last 14 days:

Stay indoors and avoid contact with others



Contact NHS 111 for advice



Please follow this advice even if you do not have symptoms of the virus



Do not go to work, school or public areas



Avoid visitors in your home



Avoid using public transport or taxis



### Symptoms to look out for:



Cough



Runny nose



Sore throat



Fever



Difficulty breathing

Patient guide to coronavirus being displayed in GP surgeries in Norfolk. Picture: Public Health England - Credit: Public Health England

[MORE: GP cancels appointments while nearby town is deserted](#)The action is part of measures being introduced by medical practices across Norfolk.

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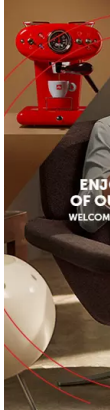
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Eight people have so far died from the disease in the UK and there are said to be 32 cases in the East of England - although none in Norfolk.

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Watlington Medical Centre, near King's Lynn, said patients with appointments already booked could be dealt with over the phone.

In a statement, it said: 'If you do visit the surgery, please do not be alarmed if the clinician that you are seeing is wearing a mask or taking other precautions.'

Chancellor Rishi Sunak is shown the testing of samples for respiratory viruses on a visit to a pathology lab to view the procedures for coronavirus sample testing. Picture: Danny Lawson/Pool Photo via AP - Credit: AP

The health centre's website adds those who believe they may be suffering the virus should not visit the surgery, on Rowan Close, which serves 6,000 patients.

'This is for the protection of our most vulnerable patients,' it goes on. 'We do not have any way of testing for the virus and it could lead to the entire surgery having to close.'

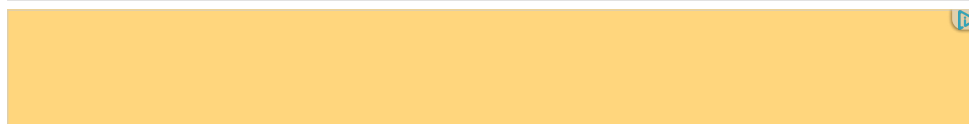
Patients at the Cromer Group Practice have been told not to attend the surgery except in specific circumstances. Picture: Kolfor/Wikimedia - Credit: Kolfor/Wikimedia

[MORE: Protective clothing and magazine ban among GP surgery's measures to stop coronavirus spread](#) St James Medical Practice in King's Lynn has also suspended its appointment system for future bookings and is assessing patients over the phone to ensure they are 'able to look after our patients in the safest possible way'.

It warned patients: 'If you have an appointment already booked you may receive notification of cancellation if your need is not urgent.'

Patients at the Cromer Group Practice in north Norfolk have been told not to attend the surgery unless they have a medical emergency, a confirmed appointment, have medication to collect or have been asked to drop off a sample.

In a patient message it stated: 'If you have an appointment booked but develop symptoms please do not attend your appointment but ring reception for further advice. Accompanying persons should wait in their personal car.'



Lawns Medical Practice in Diss has told people with cold symptoms like runny noses, coughs, aching limbs, as well as flare-ups of asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, not to attend its surgery.

East Norfolk Medical Practice in Great Yarmouth has also suspended all online appointment booking until further notice.

- For updates on how coronavirus is affecting Norfolk, please visit our [Facebook group here](#)



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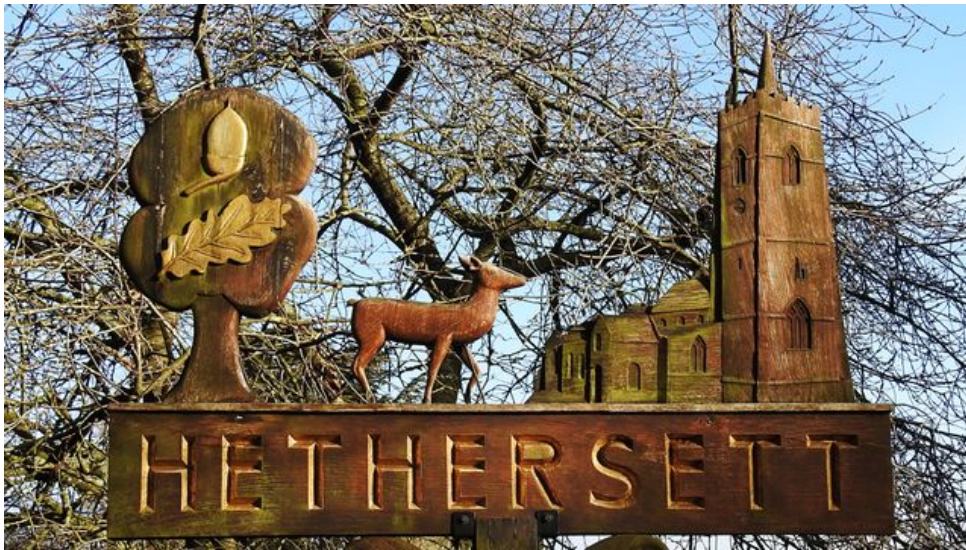
VIDEO

# GP warns surgery 'is at breaking point' due to village expansion

EDP Peter Steward



Published: 5:30 AM June 24, 2021



An extra 200 homes are proposed as part of a development where 1,196 homes are already approved in Hethersett. - Credit: Adrian S Pye

A surgery is at breaking point and in danger of not being able to provide safe care for patients, according to a village GP.

Dr Bhavesh Dhorajwala told the latest meeting of Hethersett Parish Council that continuing development in the village could put patient care at risk.

Dr Bav was commenting on plans for [an additional 200 homes in the village](#) over and above those already planned.

"We have serious concerns about the proposed additional 200 houses. We are approaching capacity for being able to offer our patients a safe service. We are approaching the point of having to close our lists," Dr Bav said.

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Sir Robert Francis, chairman of Healthwatch England, explains the findings of its new report whic...





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The [Humbleyard Practice](#), which includes surgeries at Cringleford, Mulbarton and Hethersett has put together projections for the next seven to 10 years. "We are just not going to be able to cope," Dr Bav added.

The surgery has been meeting with Hethersett district councillors Phil Hardy, Adri to discuss the future of medical facilities in the village and it is hoped to set-up a people a chance to air their views.

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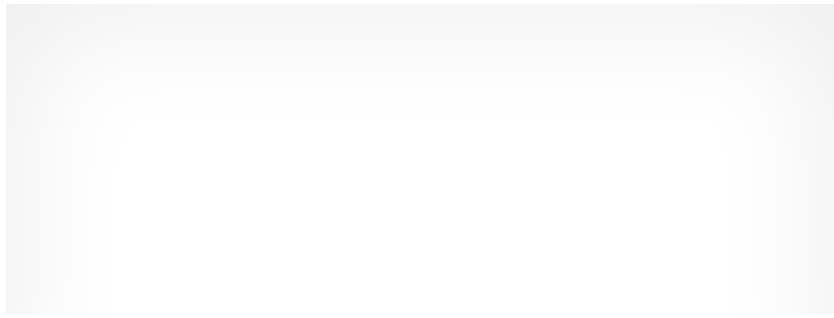
"We may have to think outside the box as the possibilities of having a new surgery to replace the existing one has been discussed but may not be viable as funding from NHS England would not be sufficient.

"What we have been offered as a surgery would be wholly inadequate to meet patient demands," Dr Bav said, adding that building a surgery through Private Finance Initiative (PFI) could be the only possible option.

Dr Bav also felt a larger surgery might have difficulty in attracting enough clinicians including doctors and nurses to run the service.

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Phil Hardy also re-iterated his opposition to the proposed additional 200 homes.

A green and yellow banner for Vitabiotics Vitamin D. The text reads: "VITABIOTICS Vitamin D UK's No.1", "Contributes to normal function of the IMMUNE SYSTEM", "SHOP NOW", and "Free UK shipping". A small source note at the bottom states: "Source: Nielsen GB ScanTrack Total Coverage Unit Retail Sales 52 w/e 16/05/20."

"We are opposed to the additional 200 homes on environmental grounds and due to inadequate medical facilities," he said.

Letters are being sent to NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, expressing serious concern about medical facilities being able to keep up with development in the village.



Chair of Hethersett Parish Council, Adrienne Quinlan - Credit: Adrienne Quinlan

Parish Council chairman, Adrienne Quinlan, said: "The pressure being put on medical services is a major concern within the village."

Hethersett News

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