

Well, we are all pretty excited about the hot spell, the children breaking up for 6 weeks and the 19th July. It feels like a special moment but there have been other special moments on 19th July in history - in 64AD the Circus Maximus had a massive fire; in 1545 the Marie Rose sank off Portsmouth; the inaugural men's and women's Wimbledon finals were won in 1877 and 1884 respectively; the first Tour de France was won in 1903; in 1969 Apollo went into Orbit and in 2011 the film Captain America premiered in Los Angeles.

More poignantly on July 19th 1940 Hitler ordered Great Britain to surrender and on the same day in 1941 Winston Churchill launched the "V for Victory" campaign.

World War II obviously lasted several years and there were undoubtedly waves when battles were fewer and times when the intensity grew. People died of gunshot but also died of dysentery and fatigue. The war we are fighting in this Covid-19 pandemic sees this third wave is definitely in its' adolescence and will probably mature in August but along with it are going to be a surge in the viruses we normally see in small numbers throughout the year simulating a "Winter flu crisis".

While so many of us are vaccinated against Covid we are not immune to the viruses such as cold and flu which will undoubtedly rise massively and lead to bronchitis, pneumonia, sinusitis and ear infections (hopefully not dysentery). We have seen a number of infections in 2-jabbed people but fortunately the vaccines are working and those infected are "less unwell" than we saw pre-vaccine. They do have to self-isolate for 10 days though, as do their families placing strain on income and independence.

I hope you can follow my train of thought - Covid and its' Family are coming so we still need to think "Hands, Face, Space" and for this reason, at Woodchurch, we won't be changing our stance on July 19th.

We anticipate our patients expect high standards and we expect high standards to continue from our patients. Please, despite the heat, wear a face covering and continue to be wary of what you touch and how much time you spend in close proximity to people you don't usually spend time with.

We will continue to ask all patients to wear a face covering in the Surgery and if there are medical/personal exceptions to wait outside the building until the time of the appointment when you will be called in. Sorry to be a fun-sponge but I think we are about to have another very uncertain few months ahead with numerous people self-isolating while waiting for test results. This includes staff at the Surgery potentially placing pressure on us being able to provide the level of service we want to. We simply need to mitigate the risk of developing Covid-like fevers and coughs that will disrupt all our lives unnecessarily so we can all act appropriately to the ailments that need a high level of attention.

Last week we had 14 non-attenders for blood tests which is very unusual and may reflect the increasing nervousness. Please let us know if you are unable to attend an appointment for any reason so we can re-deploy these precious resources.

With that, I am disappearing for 2 weeks with the family. If I forget to say - I had a great holiday!!!

With best wishes to everyone on behalf of the Surgery
Jack Hickey - GP