

Blog: 6th December, 2024

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and hoping everyone has a good year in 2025. I do hope you do not need us over the holiday season, but appendicitis and other serious conditions are no respecters of statutory holidays like Christmas and Easter so here are the days we will be open. Unlike an increasing number of local practices, we do not close over this time for two even three weeks.

On the statutory holidays, Christmas, Boxing day, the weekends Saturday and Sunday, New Years day and the day after we are NOT open. If you need to see a doctor then the options are the A and Es, both Counties in Papakura and Waiata Shores in Takanini, Franklin Hospital A and E in Pukekohe. Unless it is something that may need hospital admission please see them rather than go to Middlemore Emergency Department which gets very overloaded at this time of year with what should be routine GP work on top of all their very real and increased load of emergencies, mainly due to road accidents, family stress, alcohol and drugs.

We WILL BE OPEN for limited services on Monday 23rd and 30th, Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve and 31st New Years Eve, and Friday 27th December and 3rd January. We run our own A and E, only for our own enrolled patients, at our usual prices, not the very expensive A and E prices. There will be only one receptionist, one nurse and one doctor on.

We are not available for routine consultations, but are available for things that have just happened and need to be seen like infections that may need antibiotics, wounds that need attention, accidents and acute trauma, exacerbations of chronic conditions like COPD or Congestive heart failure or bowel diseases like colitis, chest pain, severe headaches and migraines, recent onset mental health conditions, and others. If it is something that you have had for a number of weeks please get it sorted before Christmas or come in once we are fully operational again from the 6th of January 2025. We start as usual at 8am and finish when we finish, hopefully anytime from 3pm and absolutely no later than 6pm. Basically we run a first here, first served, walk-in system but do ring if you are coming down as if there are a number of people in the waiting room our receptionist may suggest you come in an hour or so time, but she will slot you in the list to be seen based on the time you ring in, so you are not sitting around in our waiting room for hours. And the only way to jump up our list is urgency and having a life threatening condition! Sorry, chest pain will always displace an infected finger even if you got there first. We will try and grab some lunch between 12.30 and 1pm too so anyone in the waiting room who is not urgent will need to wait through that time. Please remember too we do not see friends and family who are not enrolled with us: they need to go to the A and E.

Outside our hours and the community A and E hours there is only our wonderful ambulance service the St John Ambulance, very under-funded, overworked, under-appreciated and often abused, or Middlemore. If possible come down to us next 8am if it is a day we are open.

Otherwise there is little to report in the surgery: we finally do have a new doctor joining us at the end of January and I will introduce her in the next blog. Dr Ranche Johnson is back seeing patients on Friday's which is why I am writing this blog on a Friday morning after already doing two hours of in-box reports and an

hour of updating my knowledge of the diagnosis and chemical basis of PTSD! !
[On the other weekdays Dr Ranche is a Senior Lecturer at Medical School]. Dr Dominic attended an international conference on Mens Health in Amsterdam a couple of weeks ago and has come back with a new and updated clarity about treatment options he is keen to share with patients. And we have all survived the year, a bit bruised and battered and a year older but we will all be here in 2025!

Merry Christmas from all of us, Doctors Jacqueline, Dominic and Ranche, our very competent nurses Jan, Rachael and Claire, our receptionists Jamie and Brooke, and looking after us all and keeping our surgery running smoothly, our Practice Manager Meriana.