# Coronavirus Community Support – Official medical guidance update

**The following headlines are taken from a briefing by the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group. We can forward the full PDF file to anyone who wants it**.

All GP consultations are now by phone, online or by video link with a few exceptions where you may be sent to another site to be seen.

All hospitals are now closed to visitors with a few exceptions, eg., end of life care, children's wards and neonatal units.

Routine, non-urgent surgery is being cancelled until further notice; routine, non-urgent outpatient appointments are being cancelled until further notice.

Community Hospital beds are being closed with fewer sites now operational.; maternity services have new restrictions in place.

Pharmacy opening hours are being reduced., opticians are closed.

Routine dental services have stopped. Dental Urgent Care Hubs are being set up at Bridgewater and Taunton.

People are encouraged to contact 111 **on line** before phoning for advice.

Normal services will be resumed as soon as practical but this is not likely for several months.

**The extract below is taken from a government publication on the risks associated with buying medicines online. The full document can be accessed at** [**https://tinyurl.com/wjleyfo**](https://tinyurl.com/wjleyfo)

An increasing number of bogus medical products being sold through unauthorised websites claiming to treat or prevent COVID-19 are being investigated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). These include self-testing kits, ‘miracle cures’, ‘antiviral misting sprays’, and unlicensed medicines.

At this time, there are currently **no medicines licensed specifically for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19** and there are **no CE marked self-testing kits approved for home use**.

Lynda Scammell, MHRA Enforcement Official said:

*Don’t be fooled by online offers for medical products to help prevent or treat COVID-19*

*There is no medicine licensed specifically to treat or prevent COVID-19, therefore any claiming to do so are not authorised and have not undergone regulatory approvals required for sale on the UK market. We cannot guarantee the safety or quality of the product and this poses a risk to your health.*

*The risk of buying medicines and medical devices from unregulated websites are that you just don’t know what you will receive and could be putting your health at risk.*

Sue Reece (870618) Mick Fletcher (870531) on behalf of the parish council