



PRESS RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, 1 April, 2020

Drive-through Coronavirus Assessment Centre set up at Shrewsbury Town Football Club

A drive-through assessment centre is being set up at Shrewsbury Town Football Club for patients with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

The assessment centre is strictly appointment-only for patients who have been directed there by their GP practice.

Patients who think they are showing symptoms of coronavirus should contact NHS 111 online in the first instance.

It will provide face-to-face assessments for suspected COVID-19 patients and has been designed and implemented by NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

The centre is based in the football stadium car park and will be operating Monday to Friday, including bank holidays, between 8am and 7pm.

Tests for coronavirus will not take place at the site, but people who are suspected of having the virus, are feeling very unwell and require medical attention will be assessed by a team of healthcare professionals from their vehicles or in temporary clinical rooms, as appropriate.

Further assessment centres will be rolled-out across the county with the next site being planned in Telford.

Julian Povey, Chair of NHS Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "The purpose of these new centres is to assess people with coronavirus symptoms, relieve pressure on local GP practices and hospitals, and to effectively manage the growth of cases in the community.

"It is extremely important at this time to shield our practices, where possible, from patients with suspected coronavirus as this protects both our staff and patients who do not have the disease, particularly those in higher risk groups.

“Staff members at the CCGs and local GP practices have been working hard to create these centres within a week, which are effectively temporary GP practices.

“The assessment centres are not testing facilities or walk-in services for patients with symptoms of coronavirus, and no patient will be able to report directly to these centres without being referred by their GP.”

Brian Caldwell, Chief Executive of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, said: “The club is delighted to assist local NHS staff with the use of our stadium car park.

“It goes without saying that we are happy to do all we can to support the NHS at this very difficult time, so it’s great that we can play a small part.”

Ends

**For more information please contact;
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If you have an urgent media call outside normal office hours please call 01743 454907 and ask to be put through to the CCG director on call.

Note to Editors:

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for the planning and commissioning (buying) of health and care services from a range of providers for the people of Shropshire. It also has a duty to monitor these services to ensure they provide a high level of care and are value for money.

It is a clinically led organisation with 40 GP Practices and it provides healthcare services for patients across the County registered with a local GP. The CCG buys a wide range of services and these include GP and primary care services through to hospital care as well as community services and mental health services.

The CCG’s Head Office is based at William Farr House in Shrewsbury.

For further information please call 01743 277500 and ask for the Communications and Engagement Team or email: shrccg.communicationsteam@nhs.net.