

### Support for NHS community pharmacy contractors in Surrey and Sussex

Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex  
LPC news special | 5 January 2021

Last night the PM announced a new lockdown for England, with the majority of people told to stay at home and schools closed until mid-February at least. Here is a [summary of what can and cannot be done during this national lockdown](#), with hope that immunisation with an approved vaccine will help us emerge before too long.

What a fantastic response from community pharmacy teams across Sussex and Surrey to deliver the vaccination, with over 50 expressions of interest put forward to the NHS England regional team. The first six pharmacy local vaccination services are already being prepared and are expected to be up-and-running by 11 January to help fill gaps in PCN provision at very local levels.

On or around 18 December NHSE wrote to all those contractors who applied as part of the pre-Christmas designation process, published the [Local Enhanced Service for Community Pharmacy](#) and also wrote to the chosen [designated sites](#) requiring most of them to start vaccine services in Surrey and Sussex next week (w/c 11 January). Your LPCs are supporting NHS E&I's regional team in their work to help these six designated sites get up-and-running.

Since then, the approval of a second vaccine, and one that has less complex handling characteristics when compared to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, has been welcomed and is a positive step. The rollout of the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccination programme will not be without its challenges, but [PSNC is fiercely promoting](#) community pharmacy's skills to be used by the NHS to help administer the tens of millions of vaccinations that will be needed to help England escape from the grip of the pandemic

In this special news bulletin we continue to outline the highlights of our work to support pharmacy teams across our three counties. We prioritise our work using the insight and feedback sent to us so please continue to tell us what is important to you at this time by emailing [lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk](mailto:lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk) - going forwards it is important that you contact us through this email address so that messages can be picked-up, distributed amongst the staff team and responded to quickly.

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### Seeking clarity on local processes for COVID-19 vaccination for frontline pharmacy staff

Following the government's announcements that frontline NHS staff are in the second priority category to receive a Covid vaccines, behind care home residents and alongside over 80s, the LPC staff team have sought clarity from local NHS leaders, whilst PSNC continue to talk to the NHS nationally.

- NHS local systems are now working to ensure that all healthcare workers falling into the JCVI priority cohort, including those in community pharmacy, are able to access the vaccine from a local vaccination site or hospital hub as appropriate. We will publish further details of how these will be available once this becomes clearer in Surrey and Sussex
- In Surrey Heartlands we have been asked to help the CCGs create a 'waiting list' for health and care frontline staff who were flagged through staff risk assessments as vulnerable. If you would like your vulnerable staff to have an opportunity to be called at short notice by text to a mobile number, please contact [syheartlandscg.informationgovernance@nhs.net](mailto:syheartlandscg.informationgovernance@nhs.net) as an IG agreement will need to be in place prior to sharing staff data. For more information Surrey contractors should see the email from NHSE regional team sent on Wed 30/12/2020 at 09:22. All patient-facing community pharmacy staff will be vaccinated, with operational planning underway. More to follow when known.
- A request for information about policies and procedures has been sent to the three CCGs in Sussex and the ICS covering Frimley.

### Letter for key worker parents

The definition of key workers is deliberately broad, so that all the people involved in the medicines and pharmacy supply chains who are critical to the supply of medicines, and the delivery of pharmacy services, to patients and the public – including pharmacists and pharmacy staff – are included.

Here is a [template letter that you can issue as required to pharmacy staff](#) (Microsoft Word). You will have to change the date and insert local details accordingly.

### Covid daily dashboards

Here are the Covid dashboards for Surrey and Sussex:

- [Surrey](#)
- [East Sussex](#)
- [Brighton and Hove](#)
- [West Sussex](#)

### **\*\*New\*\* coronavirus strain communications materials**

PHE is developing new assets for use during the national lockdown to promote the *Stay-at-Home* message. More resources will be added over time to target key behaviours and to promote the core message 'Hands. Face. Space'. [See the new assets](#), download them and find out how to use them. Please bookmark links from this page to visit regularly as content is updated often.

## Local representation

Here is a list of the people and organisations we have contacted and/or spoken to directly on your behalf this week already to try to resolve issues raised by contractors in Surrey & Sussex, or get clarity on very local situations

- All three Sussex CCGs and the ICS (Integrated Care System)
- GPhC
- Neighbouring LPCs
- Local resilience forum
- Medicines management teams
- NHSE& I regional team/contract managers
- PCN (primary care network) lead community pharmacists
- Public health team leaders and contract managers
- PSNC
- Voluntary and community sector representative organisations

## Results

A lot of the issues we are faced with are complex and are taking time to resolve and/or negotiate

### Lateral flow testing – potential local opportunities

A number of conversations are taking place between LPC staff and senior colleagues at top tier councils across Surrey and Sussex to investigate their appetite for offering public health lateral flow Covid-19 tests for people with no symptoms from community pharmacy.

An increasing number of community pharmacies across England are already offering this service following a pilot project led by Dudley Local Pharmaceutical Committee in partnership with Central Health Solutions Limited. There is currently no additional information about this for Surrey and Sussex and all contractors will be advised when conversations and any negotiations have concluded.

We will update you regularly throughout this emergency situation, especially about any impacts of new services. Please remember to contact us using [lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk](mailto:lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk), follow us on Twitter at [@CPSS LPCs](https://twitter.com/CPSS_LPCs) and to sign up to receive [PSNC news](#), if you haven't already.

Stay safe and well and do keep checking official sources of information (NHS, GOV.UK, PSNC and your professional institutions) for professional updates. We will focus our efforts and communications on how national guidance translates and impacts on us locally, whilst also cascading your concerns up to NHS England and/or PSNC

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