

## **THIS WEEK'S ROUND UP 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

### **Covid Vaccines**

Health and Social Care Workers should access vaccines at the various hubs, although you may also be offered a slot at a Local Vaccination Service if there are spare vaccines. Invitations to attend for second dose should be offered for the 11<sup>th</sup> week following the first dose, from the site where you had the first dose.

#### **Can I get my second dose earlier because I work in a high-risk setting?**

No, all cohorts are now being offered second dose in 11<sup>th</sup> week. This is a national policy for maximum population health benefit, as agreed by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in December.

#### **Can I get staff vaccinated if they don't have a patient-facing role? (eg office administration staff, staff working in the supermarket/post office/etc part of the premises)**

The priority groups are as per JCVI advice "Frontline health and social care workers who provide care to vulnerable people...at high risk of acquiring infection, at high individual risk of developing serious disease, or at risk of transmitting infection to multiple vulnerable people." Staff that are not directly patient-facing **to provide a health or care service** are not eligible at this time, unless they meet the criteria for a different priority cohort.

#### **Do I have to get vaccinated? Can I insist my staff are vaccinated?**

Vaccination is not mandatory or compulsory, although it is recommended for those at high risk of acquiring infection or who are at risk of developing more serious disease. If you have staff that are vaccine-averse please make sure they are provided with clear, validated information about the vaccination and resources to challenge myths, and let them know that they can still get vaccinated at a later stage if they change their mind.

#### **When will more pharmacies be able to offer covid-19 vaccines?**

At the moment the vaccine supply is still too inconsistent to have large numbers of sites, and there is a national priority to vaccinate the first 4 priority groups by 15<sup>th</sup> February. Because of the supply issues the focus is on a smaller number of sites providing higher volumes so that the infrastructure can be in place to minimise wastage. We are involved in local and regional weekly meetings, and as soon as the policy shifts we will let you know!

### **PQS declarations**

#### **How can I find out how many flu vaccines were administered to >65s in my PCN?**

You don't need to! All contractors (PCN members OR PCN leads) have to declare is the number of flu vaccines YOU administered to patients >65. The total number for the PCN will be aggregated after the PQS declaration portal has closed.

#### **How can I confirm who is in my PCN/who the lead is?**

<https://essexlpc.org.uk/pharmacy-contracts-it/primary-care-network/>

Click on the link, then select your area from the menu bar on the left.

## **Other services**

### **What's happening with GP CPCS?**

Mo Raje is running a number of workshops to enable you to complete (or verify!) claims for the GP CPCS £300 set-up fee, and to brief you on local developments on each CCG area. If you haven't received an email yet and would like to attend a workshop please contact him on [mo.raje@cpesx.org.uk](mailto:mo.raje@cpesx.org.uk)

### **What about the new Discharge Medication Service**

This becomes an **essential** service on 15<sup>th</sup> February, but we still don't have a service specification from NHSE&I! I am going to put on a few webinars over the next week to brief on this, so you can start claiming set-up fees and service fees as soon as possible, but most of you have been involved with EMOP and TCAM hospital referral programmes so it shouldn't be too challenging.

### **Snow**

Forecast. Good chance to check your business continuity plans! If you do need to close/reduce services please make sure you notify NHSE via [england.pharmacyeast@nhs.net](mailto:england.pharmacyeast@nhs.net) and your PCN lead. If you are really struggling we may be able to help.