



Daily Update

Monday 11th January 2021

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: community pharmacy and COVID-19 vaccinations update; study into impact of COVID-19 on ethnic minority healthcare workers; Market Entry applications have gone digital.

Community Pharmacy and COVID-19 Vaccinations Update

This afternoon, the Government published its [UK COVID-19 vaccines delivery plan](#), which includes the following statement on community pharmacy involvement:

"Community pharmacy sites will start to deliver vaccines from mid-January, offering bookings through the National Booking Service. This will help improve access through primary care to as many of the population as possible. The early community pharmacy sites will be able to offer significant numbers of appointments. Community pharmacies are integral parts of local communities and will be accessible and approachable places from which to deliver vaccination."

We look forward to working with DHSC and NHSE&I on the detail behind the Government's plan and further information will be made available as soon as possible.

Over the weekend PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes commented:

"Last week saw renewed interest in the role that community pharmacies can play in the COVID-19 vaccination programme following PSNC's [national media push](#), and we were pleased to hear Ministers as well as Boris Johnson confirming that there will be a role for the sector to play.

While it is positive that some pharmacies have already been selected by NHSE&I as local vaccination sites, we want to see the sector playing a far bigger role than this. The pharmacy organisations are already working up proposals for this.

PSNC's ambition is for many thousands of pharmacies to be used to deliver the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is logistically more suited to community settings. We know that patients will value this; that community pharmacies can do this; and that this would make a significant contribution to the national vaccination efforts. We hope to be able to share plans for this with contractors very soon so that they can make the necessary preparations and be ready to get going as soon as there is enough vaccine supply to enable smaller community vaccination sites like pharmacies to be stood up."

Are you taking part in UK-REACH?

UK-REACH is a United Kingdom Research study into Ethnicity and COVID-19 outcomes in Healthcare workers. Registered healthcare workers living and working in the UK are being invited to take part in the study.

The researchers hope to recruit 30,000 healthcare workers to provide a comprehensive picture of the impact of COVID-19. People from minority ethnic and migrant communities are particularly encouraged to consider taking part.

[Learn more about the study](#)

New service enables contractors to make Market Entry applications digitally

Primary Care Support England (PCSE) successfully launched a digital service for pharmacies to make market entry applications online earlier this year, hosted on its platform PCSE Online. It enables users to apply to open a new pharmacy, add or remove directors from their corporate structure and change ownership.

The service is available to those wishing to make an application and modernises a paper-based service, which used over 20 separate forms. It's a one-stop online tool giving users a streamlined, faster and more efficient application process, and enables users to track the progress of their applications in real time.

The application process is simple: users register by emailing pcse.marketentry@nhs.net and the PCSE team will contact them to guide them through setting up their profile and start making their application. Further information on the market entry process can be found on the [PCSE website](#).

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. Who will be providing COVID-19 vaccinations to health and care workers, including community pharmacy staff?

NHS Trusts ('Hospital hubs') will be the default provider of vaccinations for staff, but Primary Care Networks (PCN) or community pharmacy vaccination sites may also be used to offer vaccination, if that is agreed locally.

Q. Will COVID-19 vaccination of health and care staff be prioritised?

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have recommended that priority should be given to frontline staff "at high risk of acquiring infection, at high individual risk of developing serious disease, or at risk of transmitting infection to multiple vulnerable persons or other staff in a healthcare environment". That principle will guide the approach to rolling out vaccination to health and care staff at a local level, as will availability of vaccine.

More information is available in NHSE&I's [additional operational guidance on the COVID-19 vaccination of frontline health and social care workers](#).

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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