**Key News and Guidance for LPCs: COVID-19**

*Week ending 31st May*

**COVID-19 general updates**

**Contractor update: PSNC secures further £50m cash injection to ease cashflow challenges**

Minsters have agreed to inject a further £50m of advance funding into community pharmacies at the end of May. This follows ongoing representations from PSNC about the cashflow crisis facing many community pharmacy contractors and businesses as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) is working to calculate payments with the intention that the extra £50 million can be paid at the same time as the 1st June payment. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-update-psnc-secures-further-50m-injection-to-ease-cashflow-challenges/>

**PSNC considers next steps for the sector at May meeting**

The PSNC Committee met last week, holding detailed discussions on which activities community pharmacies should stop, start or continue to do in the current and coming environment. Immediate priorities such as the NHS Flu Vaccination Service were considered as well as the role that pharmacies could play in future COVID-19 services such as testing. Read the summary of the May meeting here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-considers-next-steps-for-the-sector-at-may-meeting/>

**May edition of CPN magazine is now out**

The May 2020 edition of PSNC’s Community Pharmacy News (CPN) is now available. Read or download it here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/may-edition-of-cpn-magazine-is-out/>

**NHS Test and Trace: implications for community pharmacy**

Last week the Government [**announced**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-nhs-test-and-trace-service) that the NHS Test and Trace programme would commence. The announcement was followed by the publication of [**information on how the programme will operate**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works). PSNC has sought clarification on what this means for pharmacy teams. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-test-and-trace-implications-for-community-pharmacy/>

**COVID-19 related payments: How and when will they be made**

A number of new COVID-19 related payments for community pharmacy contractors have been announced in recent months. Here we summarise how to claim for these payments (if required) and when each payment will be made for the month of June/July: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-related-payments-how-and-when-they-will-be-made/>

**Claiming for Early May Bank Holiday payments**

Community pharmacy contractors are now able to claim payment for being required by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) to open between 2pm to 5pm on the Early May Bank Holiday (Friday 8th May). Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/claiming-for-early-may-bank-holiday-payments/>

**Appendix**

**Remember: Key actions to take during the pandemic**

Contractors and pharmacy teams can take the following actions to ensure they are well prepared:

* Read the [**NHSE&I guidance**](https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/contractor-guidance-and-support/) **and implement its recommended actions;**
* Clearly display the [**COVID-19 poster**](https://psnc.org.uk/the-healthcare-landscape/covid19/information-for-the-public/) **at points of entry to your pharmacy;**
* Read your [**business continuity plan**](https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/essential-service-clinical-governance/emergency-planning/) **and consider whether it needs to be updated to reflect the current and emerging situation;**
* Keep up to date with developments by regularly checking the information on [**COVID-19 on GOV.UK**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus)**, the** [**NHSE&I Coronavirus Primary Care webpage**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/) **and checking your NHSmail shared mailbox on a regular basis for updates from NHSE&I; and**
* Where possible, display the [**public health advice posters**](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/5016) **on hand washing etc.**

**Guidance for healthcare professionals**

The key guidance for health professionals is available on the Public Health England (PHE) section of the GOV.UK website:

[**COVID-19: guidance for health professionals (GOV.UK)**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus)

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published guidance for primary care teams on 27th February 2020. This includes a specific document for community pharmacy teams, which takes the guidance already available on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus), but contextualises it for the community pharmacy environment:

[**NHSE&I Coronavirus Primary Care webpage**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/)

The guidance explains how to deal with patients presenting in the pharmacy with suspected COVID-19 infection and preparations pharmacy contractors can take to deal with such a scenario. All pharmacy contractors should read the guidance and then undertake appropriate preparations for dealing with potentially infected patients.