**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 5th July*

**Flu vaccination service: How can you provide it in a COVID-safe way?**

The number of flu vaccinations administered by community pharmacists under the NHS Advanced service grew by **20%** in 2019/20 compared to the previous year, with **1,718,147** administrations being claimed to the end of March ([**NHSBSA data**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/prescription-data/catalyst-public-insight-portal)). This excellent growth rate continues to demonstrate that the convenience and accessibility of the pharmacy service is highly valued by patients. However, in the season ahead, there will be a new challenge to overcome when providing the service: how to do so in a COVID-safe way? Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vaccination-service-how-can-you-provide-it-in-a-covid-safe-way/>

**NHS Test and Trace: New guidance for contractors**

Last week PSNC published guidance on the NHS Test and Trace programme for pharmacy contractors. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-test-and-trace-new-guidance-for-contractors/>

**NHS Health Check: Restart Preparation Webinar**

Public Health England Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Prevention team are hosting a webinar for NHS Health Check commissioners and providers, including community pharmacy teams, to support restart planning and preparation for the NHS Health Check. This will be held on Tuesday 14th July. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-health-check-restart-preparation-webinar/>

**EPS prescriptions now over 85% of total items**

Electronic prescriptions sent via the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) now make up more than 85% of all dispensed prescriptions. The COVID-19 outbreak has increased the rate of use of EPS, with the service now being utilised by more GP Access/virtual hubs, walk-in centres and out of hours settings than ever before, and uptake in urgent care settings contributing towards the wider use of EPS. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/electronic-prescriptions-reach-more-than-85/>

**Extensions made to COVID-19 provisions**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced the extension of certain services and provisions introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic through a number of [**Drug Tariff updates for July 2020**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/updates-july-2020-drug-tariff). We have summarised the updates in the following news story: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/extensions-made-to-covid-19-provisions/>

**June CPN out now**

The June 2020 edition of Community Pharmacy News (CPN) is out. Read or download the latest issue here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/june-edition-of-cpn-magazine-is-out/>

**COVID-19 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**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/) **webpage 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.