**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 12th July*

**Contractor update: Negotiations begin on pharmacy COVID-19 funding**

Negotiations on high-level community pharmacy costs and funding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic have now formally begun, PSNC confirmed. The negotiations between PSNC, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) follow several months of representations by PSNC, including the submission of a business case for additional funding in April. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-update-negotiations-begin-on-pharmacy-covid-19-funding/>

**Pharmacy Representation Review Update: Next steps**

This news story contains an update on the next steps of the Pharmacy Representation Review following the contractor webinar and LPC engagement event last week. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-representation-review-update-next-steps/>

**NHSBSA launches staff risk assessment survey**

Community pharmacy contractors are being asked to declare their progress on performing COVID-19 risk assessments for their staff. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsbsa-launches-staff-risk-assessment-survey/>

**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.