**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 2nd August*

**Pandemic Delivery Service extended for patients in local outbreak areas**

Due to the emergence of local outbreaks in various areas across England, the Secretary of State has decided that the pandemic delivery service requirements **should continue to apply from 1st to 31st August 2020, but only for shielded patients who live in the following local outbreak areas**:

* The original Leicester lockdown area, announced on 29th June 2020 ([**Postcodes**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/Lockdown-postcode-lookup.xlsx));
* Blackburn with Darwen ([**Postcodes**](https://www.doogal.co.uk/AdministrativeAreas.php?district=E06000008)); and
* Luton ([**Postcodes**](https://www.doogal.co.uk/AdministrativeAreas.php?district=E06000032)).

Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pandemic-delivery-service-extended-for-patients-in-local-outbreak-areas/>

**Reminder: Deadline approaching to claim £300 payment to support social distancing**

Community pharmacy contractors have days left to claim payment the £300 payment for the adjustments to support social distancing i.e. the installation of bollards, physical barriers or screens as the window for claiming this payment closes on, **5th August 2020 at 11.59pm**. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-one-week-left-to-claim-300-payment-for-adjustments-to-support-social-distancing/>

**Self-isolation period extended to 10 days**

The UK Chief Medical Officers have announced an extension of the self-isolation period from 7 to 10 days. Evidence was cited that shows that people with COVID-19, who are mildly ill and are recovering, have a low but real possibility of infectiousness between 7 and 9 days after illness onset. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/self-isolation-period-extended-to-10-days/>

**July edition of CPN magazine out now**

The July 2020 edition of CPN is now available. Read in full here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/july-edition-of-cpn-magazine-is-out/>

**Government commits to workforce development**

The NHS has published a [**People Plan for 2020/21**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/we-are-the-nhs-people-plan-for-2020-21-action-for-us-all/), which sets out how it will support the workforce to deliver the care that the NHS needs to over the next six months. The People Plan makes commitments to providing greater support for the health and wellbeing of NHS staff, ensuring there is a pipeline of talent entering the workforce, and identifying and scaling up new ways of delivering care. It describes how a new recruitment, retention and support package will help boost numbers, featuring practical support for wellbeing and opportunities for flexible working. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/government-commits-to-nhs-workforce-development/>

**New research on key role of community pharmacy in COVID-19 pandemic**

Research into the role of community pharmacy during pandemics, with the express aim of producing guidelines to support practice, is to be conducted by Aston University. Primarily focused on the COVID-19 outbreak, the Aston School of Pharmacy will lead an academic study into how community pharmacy can support the public health agenda and adapt its services to help meet the challenges presented by pandemics. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-research-on-key-role-of-community-pharmacy-in-covid-19-pandemic/>

**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.