**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 9th August*

**Update on new flexible approach to flu vaccination service**

An update on the new flexible approaches being considered for support the provision of the flu vaccination service has been released. **Contractors must note that the changes PSNC is seeking to the flu vaccination service, described in the update, have not yet been agreed and may never be agreed.** Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-on-new-flexible-approaches-to-flu-vaccination-service/>

**PPE portal: now live for community pharmacy**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that community pharmacies can now order additional personal protective equipment (PPE) through the online portal **in an emergency**. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/ppe-portal-now-live-for-community-pharmacy/>

**Recently opened pharmacies to receive share of COVID-19 advanced sum**

Following representations from PSNC, community pharmacies that newly opened (including any changes to ownership, consolidations, mergers etc.) between 1st March 2020 and 30th June 2020 can receive advance funding to help mitigate cashflow issues due to COVID-19. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/recently-opened-pharmacies-to-receive-share-of-covid-19-advance-sums/>

**Initial information on the Part 2 PQS for 2020/2021**

An initial outline of requirements for Part 2 of the 2020/21 Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) has been released.

On 13th July 2020, PSNC informed contractors that a [**new PQS for the first part of 2020/21**](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-announced-for-first-part-of-2020-21/) had been launched. The focus of the first part of the scheme was to ensure community pharmacy contractors and their teams had put in place all reasonable measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, to protect both themselves and the people using their services. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/initial-information-on-the-part-2-pqs-for-2020-21/>

**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.