**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 6th September*

**Pandemic Delivery Service: another extension for patients in local outbreak areas**

Due to the ongoing local COVID-19 outbreaks in various areas across England, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has decided that the pandemic delivery service requirements **should continue to apply from 8th September 2020 until the dates detailed below, but only for shielded patients who live in the following local outbreak areas**:

* 9 wards within South and West Blackburn, Darwen and rural areas outlined in [**THIS LINK**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/9-Wards-in-S-and-W-Blackburn-and-Darwen.xlsx) until 21st September 2020;
* 8 wards within North East Blackburn outlined in [**THIS LINK**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/8-Wards-in-NE-Blackburn.xlsx) until 23rd September 2020; and
* Leicester City as outlined in [**THIS LINK**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/Leicester-City-Postcodes-04092020.xlsx) until 23rd September 2020.

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

**NPA: Pharmacy network unsustainable under current financial framework**

Community pharmacy funding is insufficient to maintain the network at its current scale, according to an in-depth report published by the National Pharmacy Association (NPA). The [**Impacts of current funding, policy and economic environment on independent pharmacy in England**](https://www.npa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EY-NPA-Impacts-of-current-funding-policy-and-economic-environment-on-pharmacy-in-England-FINAL.pdf) report suggests that, as things stand, around three-quarters of pharmacies could be in deficit by 2024, with between 28% and 38% already estimated to be in deficit as of 2019. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/npa-pharmacy-network-unsustainable-under-current-financial-framework/>

**Advanced services: changes to consent and other rules**

From 1st September 2020, it is no longer a contractual requirement that written consent is obtained from patients prior to the provision of the Flu Vaccination Service, Medicines Use Reviews (MUR), the New Medicine Service (NMS) and Appliance Use Reviews (AUR). Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/advanced-services-changes-to-consent-and-other-rules/>

**Extension of emergency regulations**

The declaration of an emergency requiring the flexible provision of pharmaceutical services (direction 2 of the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) Directions 2020) which was introduced to help maintain pharmacy services during the COVID-19 outbreak, has been extended to 30th November 2020. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/extension-of-emergency-regulations/>

**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.