**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 13th September*

**Flu vaccination funding for 2020/21**

PSNC has agreed a position with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Department of Health and Social Care on funding for the Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service in 2020/21. The fee per vaccination will remain at £9.58, but we have also agreed, for this year only:

* £0.50 per vaccination will be paid, funded from the Transition Fund; and
* up to £1m of medicines margin can be retained for flu vaccinations administered above the number in a normal year. This will be in addition to the allowed £800 million medicines margin under the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework.

This means the combined value of fees paid per vaccination will be £10.08. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vaccination-funding-for-2020-21/>

**Flu vaccination for 50-64-year olds – Are you vaccinating in line with the PGD?**

Contractors are reminded that as part of the further extension to the vaccine programme in 2020/21, people in the 50-64-year old age group **cannot** be vaccinated until an announcement is made by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). This is likely to occur in November or December. The decision on commencing vaccination of this group of patients will be informed by the availability of vaccine and progress made with vaccinating the other target groups. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vaccination-for-50-64-year-olds-are-you-vaccinating-in-line-with-the-pgd/>

**Pharmacies in England carry out one million consultations a week**

PSNC published the results of the Pharmacy Advice Audit which, among other things, found that pharmacies are carrying out around one million informal patient consultations a week. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-pharmacy-advice-audit-results-show-pharmacies-carry-out/>

**New 2021 public holiday guide for pharmacies**

PSNC has produced a quick reference guide for 2021 bank / public holidays to address some of the common queries on the pharmacy terms of service opening hours requirements. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-2021-public-holiday-guide-for-pharmacies/>

**NHSmail: Changes to shared mailbox names**

NHS Digital is introducing an improved naming convention for pharmacy shared mailboxes, which is scheduled to roll-out to pharmacy NHSmail users in mid-September 2020. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhsmail-changes-to-shared-mailbox-naming-system/>

**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.