**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 30th August*

**Pandemic Delivery Service: further 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 1st to 7th September 2020, but only for shielded patients who live in the following local outbreak areas**:

* Leicester City lockdown area ([**Postcodes**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/Leicester-City-Postcodes-28082020.xlsx))
* Blackburn with Darwen ([**Postcodes**](https://www.doogal.co.uk/AdministrativeAreas.php?district=E06000008))

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

**Flu vaccination: service spec published and new flexibilities agreed**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published the [**service specification for the 2020/21 Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced Service and the associated national Patient Group Direction (PGD)**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/community-pharmacy-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-service/). These documents, alongside the [**amendments to the Secretary of State Directions**](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2020-08/Pharmaceutical%20Services%20%28Adv%20Enh%20%20Emerg%20Declar%29%20%28Eng%29%20%28Flu%20vacc%20Hep%20C%20etc%29%20Dir%2028082020.pdf) formally start the countdown to the commencement of what is expected to be the largest ever community pharmacy flu vaccination programme on Tuesday 1st September 2020. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vac-service-spec-published-and-new-flexibilities-agreed/>

**PSNC issues statement on future of pharmacy representation**

PSNC published a statement on the future of pharmacy contractor representation, reflecting on how best to start the process of addressing the findings of an independent review. The independent review into contractor support and representation, which PSNC initiated in 2019 working together with LPCs, concluded in summer 2020 with the publication of a report setting out 33 recommendations for the future workings of PSNC and LPCs. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-issues-statement-on-future-of-pharmacy-representation/>

**Hep C testing Advanced service to commence next month**

The Community Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antibody Testing Service, which had its introduction into the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, will officially launch on 1st September 2020. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hep-c-testing-advanced-service-to-commence-next-month/>

**August edition of CPN magazine out**

The August 2020 edition of PSNC’s Community Pharmacy News (CPN) is now available. Access it here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/august-edition-of-cpn-magazine-is-out/>

**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.