**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 6th December*

**General/COVID**

**NHSE&I publish pharmacy guidance on COVID\_19 vaccination**

NHS England & NHS Improvement have published several documents for community pharmacy contractors relating to the COVID-19 vaccination programme. The documents are of interest to those who are considering whether they may be able to participate in the programme by operating a vaccination site: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-seeks-to-address-workload-pressures-during-second-wave/>

**Flu vaccination of 50-64 year-olds can commence**

Flu vaccinations of 50-64 year-olds can commence from Tuesday 1st December under the terms of the flu vaccination Advanced service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/flu-vaccination-of-50-64-year-olds-can-commence/>

**Christmas Bank Holiday openings**

NHSE&I confirmed on 1st December that there is currently no intention to issue a national or regional direction for community pharmacies to open on Bank Holidays over the coming Christmas and New Year period, as happened at Easter this year. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/christmas-bank-holiday-opening/>

**Manufacturer & Wholesaler Christmas opening hours 2020**

A summary of customer service desk opening hours can be found in the following news story: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/wholesaler-manufacturer-christmas-opening-hours-2020/>

**NHS Test and Trace: December 2020 update**

PSNC issued an update on the application of the NHS Test and Trace service to community pharmacies. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/nhs-test-and-trace-december-2020-update/>

**November 2020 Price Concessions – Final Update**

DHSC set the final price concessions for November 2020. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/november-2020-price-concessions-final-update/>

**November edition of CPN magazine is out**

The November 2020 edition of PSNC’s Community Pharmacy News is now available. Read this here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/november-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.