**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 29th November*

**General/COVID**

**PSNC seeks to address workload pressures during second wave**

PSNC published an update on the action points that we have been discussing with the NHS and Government to address contractor workload and staffing pressures during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-seeks-to-address-workload-pressures-during-second-wave/>

**PSNC responds to Government Spending Review**

Chancellor Rishi Sunak set out the Government’s spending plans for the remainder of 2020/21. PSNC commented on this, setting out some of our funding bids we have put to the Government. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-responds-to-government-spending-review/>

**Register now to use Real Time Exemption Checking (RTEC)**

RTEC allows pharmacy teams to digitally check if their patients are eligible for free NHS prescriptions because they hold specific exemptions. Read more here: https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/real-time-exemption-checking-rtec-registration-opens/

**Reminder: Pandemic Delivery Service ends next Thursday**

The Pandemic Delivery Service is commissioned until Thursday 3rd December, following the end of national lockdown. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reminder-pandemic-delivery-service-ends-next-thursday/>

**Regulatory updates to support pandemic response**

Updates have been made to the Pharmaceutical Services Directions 2020 to support developments amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/regulatory-updates-to-support-pandemic-response/>

**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.