**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 27th December*

**General/COVID**

**Pandemic Delivery Service restarts for patients in Tier 4**

DHSC has decided to restart the Pandemic Delivery Service from 21st December 2020 until 18th January 2021. Read the full details here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pandemic-delivery-service-restarts-for-patients-in-tier-4/>

**Pandemic Delivery Service to be extended to new Tier 4 areas**

Following an announcement of the move of additional areas into Tier 4 from 26th December, it was confirmed more areas would be able to restart the Pandemic Delivery Service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pandemic-delivery-service-to-be-extended-to-new-tier-4-areas/>

**PQS and service changes agreed to create extra capacity**

NHSE&I and the DHSC have agreed to PSNC’s request for more timings for completion of the work within the Pharmacy Quality Scheme Part 2 2020/21 and the removal of some Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) requirements for 2020/21. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pqs-and-service-changes-agreed-to-create-extra-capacity/>

**Discharge Medicines Service guidance published**

NHSE&I confirmed that the DMS will not become an Essential service for contractors until 15th February 2021 and they have published guidance on the service. The decision to launch the DMS in mid-February followed representations from PSNC recognising the pressures that contractors are under and the time needed to prepare for a new service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/discharge-medicines-service-guidance-published/>

**Indemnity Arrangements for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

NHSE&I and DHSC and NHS Resolution issued a joint letter to reassure healthcare professionals and others about the indemnity arrangements that are in place to cover the COVID-19 vaccination programme. The letter applies to NHS Trust vaccination centres and in Local Vaccination Centres, including to deliver the Community Pharmacy Local Enhanced Service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/indemnity-arrangements-for-the-covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

**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.