**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 21st February*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**PSNC CEO releases video message**

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes has recorded another video message for community pharmacy contractors and their teams on the impact that the lack of fair funding for pharmacy could have on patients. Watch his video here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-ceo-releases-video-message/>

**Review Steering Group invites community pharmacy contractors and LPCs to engagement session**

The community pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG), which is taking forward work following the independent review into contractor representation and support, is hosting some upcoming engagement events for contractors and LPCs. Contractors are invited to attend an online event on Tuesday 9th March at 7.30pm, while LPCs will be able to attend a session at PSNC’s virtual meeting of LPCs on Wednesday 17th March. Read more and sign up here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/review-steering-group-invites-community-pharmacy-contractors-and-lpcs-to-engagement-sessions/>

**COVID-19 vacs: Collaborative working between PCN and community pharmacy sites**

This story explains how a pharmacy site is working collaboratively with a Primary Care Network (PCN) vaccination site to get eligible people vaccinated against COVID-19. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-vacs-collaborative-working-between-pcn-and-community-pharmacy-sites/>

**Pandemic Delivery Service extended**

NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) confirmed last week that the Pandemic Delivery Service will be commissioned from 19th February to 31st March 2021 for all clinically extremely vulnerable patients living in England. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pandemic-delivery-service-extended/>

**PSNC published 2019/20 annual report**

Following the commencement of the Discharge Medicines Service on 15th February, PSNC has been issuing answers to frequently asked questions on the service. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dms-frequently-asked-questions-3/>

**Pharmacy teams encouraged to support study of Oxford/AZ vaccine**

Pharmacy teams are being asked to support a safety study of the new Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to ensure any side effects are quickly recognised and acted upon. Read more here about how pharmacy teams can help: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-teams-encouraged-to-support-study-of-oxford-az-vaccine/>

**Services case study: Lateral Flow Testing in community pharmacy**

Lateral flow testing is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 but may still be spreading the virus. Some parts of London are providing this testing as part of a local authority organised service and a case study can be found via the following news story: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/lateral-flow-testing-in-community-pharmacy/>

**Shielding advice extended and new patient cohort added**

This article is about the shielding programme and explains some changes made by the Government, including widening the group of patients considered clinically extremely vulnerable and who might be prioritised for COVID-19 vaccination. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/shielding-advice-extended-and-new-patient-cohort-added/>

**New opportunity for pharmacies to become COVID-19 vaccination sites**

NHS England & NHS Improvement issued a call for new applications from pharmacy contractors to become COVID-19 vaccination sites. A letter was issued on 16th February setting out the latest information. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/new-opportunity-for-pharmacies-to-become-c-19-vac-sites/>

**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.