**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

 *Week ending 28th February*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**COVID-19 vacs: Collaborative working between pharmacy and local football stadium**

This story explains how a pharmacy site in Bolton is leading a mass vaccination site with their local football club in efforts to get eligible people vaccinated against COVID-19. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/covid-19-vacs-collaborative-working-between-pharmacy-and-local-football-stadium/>

**February 2021 CPN published**

Last week the February 2021 edition of Community Pharmacy News (CPN) was published. Download or read it here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/february-2021-cpn-magazine-published/>

**Provisionally registered pharmacists and the 2021 GPhC pre-registration assessment**

PSNC published an article to help contractors familiarise themselves with issues facing those who are considering sitting the March 2021 GPhC assessment. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-ceo-releases-video-message/>

**Reporting COVID-19 lateral flow test results – AI trial**

NHS Digital is trialling new artificial intelligence (AI) software to read test results of lateral flow devices (LFDs), which will make reporting results quicker, easier to understand and more accurate. Primary care staff – including pharmacy team members – will be able to take part in this trial from the end of next week. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/reporting-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-results-ai-trial/>

**Over 100 products re-classified as Special Containers since May 2020**

Following representations from PSNC, over 100 products have now been re-classified as Special Containers since May 2020. Read more and view the latest changes here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/over-100-products-re-classified-as-special-container-since-may-2020/>

**HEE to repeat community pharmacy workforce survey**

Health Education England is commissioning another Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey across England to better understand the numbers and skill mix across community pharmacy. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/hee-to-repeat-community-pharmacy-workforce-survey/>

**Contractor notice: Final printed Drug Tariff in March 2021**

The final printed Drug Tariff has been published this month following last year’s announcement that from April 2021, contractors will only be able to access the Drug Tariff online. Read more here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-notice-final-printed-drug-tariff-in-march-2021/>

**DHSC seeking pharmacy techs and dispensing staff to join PPE panel**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is continuing its work to get feedback from the users of COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the Government’s PPE portal. Read more and see how pharmacy teams can get involved here: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/dhsc-seeking-pharmacy-techs-and-dispensing-staff-to-join-ppe-panel/>

**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.