**Key News and Guidance for LPCs**

*Week ending 2nd January*

**Last week’s news stories:**

**Pharmacy Collect: UKHSA update on LFD stock (December 30th)**

In the wake of continued unprecedented public demand for Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits via the Pharmacy Collect service, PSNC issued an update on the LFD supply situation on December 30th. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-ukhsa-update-on-lfd-stock/**

**Drug Tariff Watch – January 2022**

PSNC’s Dispensing and Supply Team has created a summary of the Drug Tariff changes for January 2022. This includes details of additions, deletions and category and price changes. Read more here: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/drug-tariff-watch-january-2022/**

**Pharmacy Collect: December claims submission extended**

Community pharmacy contractors now have until the end of January 2022 to submit their December 2021 claims for the [**Pharmacy Collect service**](https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/c-19-lateral-flow-device-distribution-service/). Find out more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/pharmacy-collect-december-claims-submission-extended/**

**Access to COVID testing for pharmacy staff**

Amidst growing calls for key workers (including NHS staff) to be prioritised to receive COVID tests, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has advised primary care teams of how to escalate requests for testing needed for their staff. Find out more: **https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/access-to-covid-testing-for-pharmacy-staff/**

**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, face coverings 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.