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| Daily Update  |
| Monday 19th July 2021 |

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|  | This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams, including details of the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In today's update: New rules on self-isolation for frontline healthcare staff; booking open for RSG focus groups; CPAF screening survey closing soon.Frontline healthcare staff may be able to avoid self-isolationThe Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that, from today, [**frontline NHS workers who have been told to self-isolate can continue to go to work under certain circumstances**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e4da61ac51&e=d19e9fd41c). This includes staff who have been advised to self-isolate by the NHS COVID-19 App and those contacted by NHS Test and Trace. PSNC has received confirmation from NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) that this does apply to community pharmacy. This new dispensation, intended to alleviate pressure on healthcare services, applies only to workers who have been double vaccinated and in scenarios where their absence may lead to a significant risk of harm. The balance of risk between staff absence and the potential impact on patient safety if staff return to work should be assessed and should involve at least the contractor’s **senior clinical leadership**.[**Learn more about the new self-isolation rules for frontline healthcare staff**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=ed5dafb86e&e=d19e9fd41c)Register now to attend a RSG focus group The Review Steering Group (RSG) is developing options for how NHS Community Pharmacy representation and support could operate in the future and wants to hear your views on initial options. Contractors, LPCs, PSNC members and contractor trade body representatives are being invited to attend a series of focus groups and workshops to help further develop and evolve the potential options for contractor representation and support. Ten focus group sessions are being held between **Friday 30th July and Wednesday 4th August**. Contractors and LPC representatives are invited to sign up for one of these events. Draft materials on options for future models of national and local representative and support organisations will be shared in advance, and the sessions will be a chance to hear more and to share views with RSG Members.There will be time for further reflection and feedback after the meetings, and contractors and LPC representatives will be invited to consult further in September, ahead of engagement with the entire sector.The timings of the focus groups are based on feedback from contractors and LPCs. For contractors, we have offered evening meetings at a later start time, or an option to attend one of two 'Express Sessions' at lunchtime. For LPCs, we have offered a range of mostly daytime events for the LPC focus groups, with an option to attend an evening meeting.[**Register to attend a focus group meeting**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=a2c23b680d&e=d19e9fd41c)Less than one week left to complete CPAF 2021/22Community pharmacy contractors are reminded that they have until**midnight on 24th July 2021 (this Saturday)** to complete the Community Pharmacy Assurance Framework (CPAF) screening questionnaire for each of their NHS pharmacies: more than 8,000 pharmacies have already done so. By completing the screening questionnaire, contractors reduce their chance of being asked to complete the full CPAF survey. Contractors yet to complete the questionnaire should review PSNC’s [**CPAF screening process briefing for 2021/22**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=39faf4b3e4&e=d19e9fd41c), which explains the changes from the last CPAF process and provides guidance on the new questions.[**Find out more about this year’s CPAF screening process**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=dd2a59e2f1&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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