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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Friday 3rd December 2021 |

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|  | This newsletter from PSNC is sent on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It contains important information for those that work in the community pharmacy sector.In this update: Call for Government to support pharmacies this winter; Health Secretary thanks primary care staff; LFD stock check; wholesalers' Christmas opening; virtual consultation tool pilot.PSNC urges Government to support all pharmacies through COVID-19 booster pushPSNC has warned HM Government and the NHS of the need to provide further support for all community pharmacies as we head into what will be an extremely challenging winter period.Contractors are already reporting mounting pressures, particularly with ongoing workforce problems and the associated capacity issues and rise in staffing costs, and PSNC is concerned that this will not be sustainable through another challenging winter.Whilst PSNC would strongly support the approval of more pharmacy COVID-19 vaccination sites to help with boosters, we have also this week pressed NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to recognise the impact of the vaccination programme on all community pharmacies.We are seeking additional measures to ease pressure, which could include regulatory support, the removal of administrative burdens and changes to the current Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS).[**Read more, including how to help PSNC to gather evidence**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=52cf4a3dfd&e=d19e9fd41c)Health Secretary thanks primary care for C-19 vaccinationsThe Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, has written a letter of thanks to all primary care staff for the work that they have done, and continue to do, on the COVID-19 vaccination programme. In the letter he praises the hard work undertaken to not only vaccinate but also maintain essential patient services, and references additional financial support being made available to local vaccination services.[**Read the Health Secretary's letter to all primary care staff**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=f2308f3dd4&e=d19e9fd41c)How many LFD test kits do you have in stock?Updated Government recommendations on COVID-19 testing mean community pharmacies could start to experience an increase in demand for Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits.Contractors are therefore encouraged to review stock levels and where there is space to store additional cartons of test kits within the pharmacy, consider placing additional orders to ensure their pharmacy teams can meet demand over the next couple of months. As we approach the busy Christmas and New Year period, same or next day delivery should not be relied upon.[**More information about ordering LFD test kits**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=abf7f08186&e=d19e9fd41c)Manufacturer & Wholesaler Christmas Opening Hours 2021At this busy time of year manufacturers are working closely with wholesalers to ensure that sufficient stock is available at wholesalers for the Christmas period. To support contractors, PSNC's Dispensing and Supply Team has compiled a summary of customer service desk opening hours and information on order cut off/delivery schedules.[**View Christmas opening hours information**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e46edc46f4&e=d19e9fd41c)Pilot of Virtual Visits consultation toolContractors are invited to take part in research trialling the new NHSmail Virtual Visits booking and consultation platform. Those pharmacy teams taking part in the pilot will be able to use the Virtual Visits tool to experiment with booking and carrying out face to face and/or virtual patient consultations.[**Learn more about the pilot**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=82808a85e3&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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| Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee  **Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated** **Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated** 14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQTel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: **info@psnc.org.uk**  |
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