



COVID-19 Update

Monday 23rd March 2020

This new, daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: contractor emails, PSNC CEO video message, updated SOP and medicines delivery reminder, press coverage and LPC resources

PSNC COVID-19 Contractor Updates

Welcome to the new daily PSNC update for community pharmacy contractors on the rapidly developing COVID-19 situation.

The pandemic is placing unprecedented demand on pharmacies and PSNC is working flat out to make representations to HM Government and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) on this.

We have highlighted the very significant challenges you are all facing – both in terms of keeping services going and financially – and we are seeking urgent measures from Government including an emergency COVID-19 cash injection into the sector and further measures to protect your teams.

The situation is developing rapidly and we will continue to issues news, updates and guidance to contractors as soon as decisions are made.

We will include an archive on the website and will also produce a weekly summary of news for those of you wanting to catch up at a later date.

If you have information that you would like to share through our communications – whether that is examples of best practice for colleagues, or concerns that you would like us to address – please email commsteam@psnc.org.uk

We look forward to staying in touch over what is going to be challenging few months for everyone in the sector.

Video Message from Simon Dukes, PSNC CEO

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes has recorded a video message for community pharmacy teams to explain the work that he and his team are doing on behalf of the sector: [click here to watch the video.](#)

Reminder of SOP and Medicines Delivery News

Yesterday NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) issued an **updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** for community pharmacies in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Critically, the SOP gives pharmacies some flexibility in the hours in which they need to open to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic: [find out more here](#).

HM Government has announced a **Medicines Delivery Service** from the community pharmacy sector to support vulnerable patients self-isolating at home. PSNC will issue full guidance to contractors as soon as we are able to but, in the meantime, [read what we can share about the service under negotiation here](#).

Sunday Times Press Coverage

PSNC Committee Member Garry Myers was interviewed for an article focussing on the surge in demand for painkillers. The piece explained that the volume of work for pharmacies had doubled overnight, leaving them "on the brink of collapse".

[Read the Sunday Times article](#)

LPC Resources

The PSNC Communications Team has been working with LPCs to support them in their work to promote the role of community pharmacy teams during the pandemic. Two draft local press releases are now available:

[Press Release for LPCs – General COVID-19 Information](#)

[Press Release for LPCs – Medicines Delivery Service](#)

Keep up-to-date with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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