



COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 14th April 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: training for the Flu Vaccination Service; national press coverage; keeping your pharmacy open; Pandemic Delivery Service FAQs; ibuprofen advice

Flu Vaccination Service training

Following PSNC requesting changes to the usual face-to-face training requirements for the Flu Vaccination Service, Public Health England has confirmed that anyone who has undertaken the vaccinations training before and is due to undertake face-to-face training this year can participate in online update training instead, delaying the face-to-face requirement until next year.

This news was announced in the [latest COVID-19 preparedness letter for community pharmacy](#) from NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). A summary of the letter is available on the [PSNC website](#).

National Press Coverage

[The Times](#) has today reported that pharmacies are in desperate need of appropriate funding to stay afloat, with PSNC quoted as saying that the sector is heading towards a "cliff-edge".

Keeping Your Pharmacy Open

The workload and other pressures on community pharmacy have increased during the outbreak, and for remaining pharmacy staff to stay well and not be fatigued, contractors may need to consider steps to temporarily shorten the working day or have periods of time for staff to recover and catch up with any backlog of work. The same steps may be needed for a period of time, even if the pharmacy team is not reduced in numbers.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have already agreed that contractors may make use of opening hours flexibility, as set out in the [Community Pharmacy SOP](#). In addition, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has recently confirmed that contractors may use relevant provisions in the terms of service on *temporary opening hours and closures during an emergency requiring flexible opening hours* (primarily paragraph 27 of schedule 4 of the [NHS Regulations](#)), which permit contractors to give 24 hours' notice to NHSE&I of additional or alternative flexible opening days and hours and, **if NHSE&I agrees, or at least if it does not object**, to provide those flexible opening hours.

[Read PSNC's guidance on making use of these provisions](#)

[FAQs on the Pandemic Delivery Service](#)

Our COVID-19 hub includes a page answering frequently asked questions (FAQs) which have been posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs. Today we have added new FAQs on the Pandemic Delivery Service that we have been asked since its launch.

[Visit our FAQs page](#)

[Advice on Ibuprofen and Coronavirus](#)

The Commission of Human Medicines (CHM) Expert Working Group on COVID-19 has concluded that there is currently insufficient evidence to establish a link between use of ibuprofen, or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and susceptibility to contracting COVID-19 or the worsening of its symptoms.

[Read the MHRA press release](#)

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

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