



COVID-19 Update

Thursday 14th May 2020

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

In today's update: Annual flu letter published; wellbeing support; and RPS survey

Annual flu letter published for 2020/2021

The Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England and NHS England and NHS Improvement have jointly published a **letter** to provide further information on the national flu immunisation programme for 2020–21. The letter notes that this coming winter we may be faced with co-circulation of COVID-19 and flu.

There will undoubtedly be some changes to the way in which the NHS flu vaccination service is delivered this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and new social distancing requirements. As usual, PSNC will be negotiating those details with NHSE&I as soon as they are in a position to do so.

In preparation for the 2020/21 season, at its meeting next week PSNC will be considering how the flu vaccination service might work differently in community pharmacies this year.

[More information and the full letter are available here](#)

COVID-19 support: Wellbeing during challenging times

Pharmacists and their teams have been spending all of their time through this pandemic serving their patients and their communities. To support the wellbeing of NHS staff, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has previously issued information on a series of psychological support, which is available for those working in primary care during the COVID-19 outbreak. The initial offer involves free access to a number of wellbeing apps from now until the end of December 2020.

[More information about accessing this support is available here](#)

RPS calls for evidence on pharmacy practice and COVID-19

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has today issued a short survey as part of a call for evidence to inform the future of pharmacy practice after COVID-19. A number of changes have been made to pharmacy practice during the COVID-19 pandemic and the RPS want to hear your views.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's COVID-19 hub has an [FAQs page](#) with a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are being updated on an almost daily basis. Recent additions include:

Q. Are pharmacy staff eligible for testing, and if so, how is this accessed?

Yes, frontline workers, including community pharmacy staff in England, can access free testing for COVID-19, via the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) national testing service. Testing will allow those currently unable to return to work because they or a member of their family or household have symptoms of coronavirus to know whether they do have the virus.

A new portal for booking COVID-19 tests for key workers, including community pharmacy team members, is now available for use by team members and employers: [Essential workers: apply for a coronavirus test \(GOV.UK\)](#)

Q. Has the possibility of introducing a pharmacy COVID-19 immunisation programme been broached yet in talks with DHSC?

A vaccine for the COVID-19 coronavirus has yet to be determined. Once such a vaccine exists and is available in sufficient quantities, there may be an opportunity for community pharmacies to be one of the vaccine providers.

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

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

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