



Daily Update

Tuesday 27th October 2020

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

In today's update: COVID-19 SOP is updated; reporting COVID-19 exposure; flu vac availability leaflet; NHSE&I webinar.

Updated COVID-19 SOP introduces local management of flexible opening hours

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have today issued an updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for community pharmacies in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A key amendment enables regional NHSE&I teams to notify pharmacies that they may work behind closed doors without the need for contractors to apply for such closed-door working. This change has been made to help healthcare bodies to tailor their response to the pandemic dependent on the local or regional situation. NHSE&I will consult with LPCs.

When agreed, working behind closed doors will be permitted up to 2.5 hours a day with opening between 10am-12noon and 2pm-4pm (or 2-6pm for 100-hour pharmacies) required as a minimum.

Community pharmacy contractors should also note the information about NHS Test and Trace, which indicates that advice should be sought from the local Health Protection Team if a pharmacy team member tests positive for COVID-19 and there is a risk to the provision of pharmaceutical services.

Other amendments bring the SOP in line with the latest information and guidance already available to contractors on, for example, personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and the expanded flu vaccination programme.

[Read the SOP](#)

Reporting COVID-19 exposure in the workplace

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has issued a reminder that all pharmacy employers must make sure they comply with health and safety reporting requirements, particularly in the context of the current pandemic.

The Health and Safety Executive has published **[guidance on reporting cases of COVID-19 transmission that happened in the workplace](#)** under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013.

This includes guidance for employers about using their judgement on whether or not a confirmed diagnosis is likely to have been caused by an occupational exposure and when to report.

[Read more on the GPhC website](#)

Reminder: PHE leaflet on availability of flu vac

The Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England (PHE) and the NHS have published a leaflet for the public, which explains why some people eligible for flu vaccination are being asked to wait to get vaccinated. This follows significant early demand for flu vaccinations being seen this season, with some pharmacies and general practices already having run out of initial supplies of the vaccine.

The leaflet can be downloaded from the [GOV.UK website](#) and the leaflet text is also available on that site, so pharmacy contractors may want to highlight this information to patients via their website or social media.

Copies of the leaflet can also be ordered from PHE.

[Download the leaflet](#)

NHSE&I Community Pharmacy Webinar

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) are holding a webinar for community pharmacy teams on **Thursday 12th November, 6pm to 7pm**. Hosted by Chief Pharmaceutical Officer Dr Keith Ridge and Director of Primary Care Ed Waller, agenda topics include the Flu Vaccination Service and NHS Test and Trace.

[Please register online](#) and an access link will be shared with you ahead of the event

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