



# Daily Update

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 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 vaccination programme preparations; NHS Service Finder; PSNC's regs explainer series.**

## **Preparations for a potential COVID-19 vaccination programme**

Since news broke on the positive trials of a COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer, there has been much speculation about how a vaccination programme might work and how quickly it will be rolled out. We appreciate that the lack of detail on community pharmacy's role has been frustrating for contractors and their teams, so we wanted to provide an additional update.

As pharmacy contractors may be aware, earlier this week NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) published a letter and associated information for general practices on how they can get involved in the vaccination programme. Whilst not written for community pharmacy, the documents are useful in understanding the logistical challenges for any provider that might want to offer the COVID-19 vaccination.

### **How will community pharmacy be involved?**

Due to the complexity surrounding its unprecedented mass rollout and the storage requirements for the Pfizer vaccine, community pharmacy's involvement will be very different from any involvement it has in other vaccination programmes.

At this time, there are two ways pharmacies could play a part:

**Option 1:** Supporting a local PCN vaccination site and any outreach into care homes etc. necessary from that site; or

**Option 2:** Providing a COVID-19 vaccination service under the terms of the Enhanced service (which is currently being drafted) where NHSE&I determines there is no existing provision in an area or they need additional provision.

We understand that NHSE&I will shortly publish documentation on the community pharmacy Enhanced service. We will alert contractors once it is published.

**[Read more about the potential COVID-19 vaccination programme](#)**

## Have you signed-up to use NHS Service Finder?

**NHS Service Finder** is a free online search tool which provides access to information from the [Directory of Services \(DoS\)](#) and [nhs.uk](#).

It is not accessible by the public, but it does allow pharmacy team members and other healthcare professionals to search for service information quickly, allowing a patient to be signposted to the most appropriate service for their needs. The system includes maps and directions to the services, and enables pharmacy teams to look-up non-public telephone numbers (where available) for listed services, such as general practices.

[Learn more about the NHS Service Finder](#)

## Changes to Pharmacy Regulations Explained

New NHS regulations were laid in October 2020 to introduce changes to the Terms of Service for pharmacy contractors. PSNC's new regs explainer series describes the actions contractors will need to take and when.

[Find our Regs explainer series here](#)

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)

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