



# Daily Update

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

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

**In today's update: Christmas Bank Holidays; COVID-19 vaccination programme webinar; flu vaccination for 50-64 year olds; medicine supply updates.**

## Christmas Bank Holiday Opening

In today's Primary Care Bulletin email, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) confirmed that there is currently no intention to issue a national or regional direction for community pharmacies to open on Bank Holidays over the coming Christmas and New Year period, as happened at Easter this year.

NHSE&I indicated it was extremely grateful for the huge commitment this year from all those in primary care and recognised that the need to preserve public holidays has never been more important, to provide some additional and much needed time to recharge. However, many community pharmacies will be open during the festive season and over the Government's Christmas bubble arrangements, as this year Boxing Day (Saturday 26th December) is a normal working day for the purposes of community pharmacy opening hours.

In addition, NHSE&I Regional Teams may have agreed or directed Bank Holiday opening (for Christmas Day, the Bank Holiday substitute day on Monday 28th December and Friday 1st January 2021) to cover estimated local demand for pharmacy services; and other pharmacies will be open on some of the Bank Holidays as part of normal working arrangements.

## Community pharmacy webinar on COVID-19 vaccination programme

Contractors and pharmacy teams are invited to join NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) for their next webinar to find out more about the urgent preparations underway and how selected contractors will be able to provide a COVID-19 vaccination service from pharmacy-led designated sites.

The webinar will be held at **6pm on Wednesday 2nd December** and those who wish to attend are required to [register to join this event](#).

## Flu vaccination of 50-64 year olds can commence

Flu vaccinations for 50-64 year olds\* can commence today (Tuesday 1st December 2020) under the terms of the [flu vaccination Advanced service](#).

This follows the Government's announcement, earlier this year, that the 2020 flu vaccination programme would be extended with the addition of this new cohort, so it would become the largest programme ever undertaken in England, and their [subsequent announcement on the timing of the addition of the 50-64 year old cohort](#) made on 20th November 2020.

So far this flu season, contractors have already surpassed the number of patients vaccinated in previous years, having administered over 2 million doses, with demand for flu vaccination from eligible patients still being very high.

### [Pharmacy Influenza Vaccination PGD V07.00: Extension of eligible cohorts – 30 November 2020](#)

#### [PHE information for patients on the extended programme](#)

#### [Guidance for pharmacy contractors on the supply of DHSC flu vaccine stock](#)

\* That includes people who turn 50 by 31st March 2021.

## Medicine supply notifications

The DHSC has also released some medicines supply notifications which community pharmacy teams may need to be aware of. Please click the links below for more information.

### [Dulcolax \(bisacodyl\) 5mg and 10mg suppositories](#)

### [Ferrous Fumarate 322mg/Folic Acid 350mcg \(Pregaday\) tablets](#)

### [Nalcrom \(sodium cromoglicate\) 100mg capsules](#)

### [Normacol granules and Normacol Plus granules](#)

### [Oral contraceptive tablets \(various brands\)](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

**Q. With a temporary suspension of the requirement to sign prescriptions in place, do collectors of Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs (CDs) need to continue signing the reverse of the prescription forms and tokens when they collect CDs?**

**A.** While it is normally good practice to ask individuals, at the point that Schedule 2 or 3 CDs are handed to them, to sign the back of the prescription form (or EPS token reverse) as confirmation of collection, at this time however, to try and minimise any potential risks of Covid-19 transmission from paper handling, it may not be appropriate to follow this recommendation. Pharmacists will need to apply their professional judgement to determine if it is appropriate to supply the CDs if the identity of the person collecting the CDs cannot be clearly ascertained.

**Q. Do I still need to submit EPS tokens to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) whilst the suspension of signature requirements remains in place?**

**A.** PSNC is currently in discussion with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) around whether it is still necessary for contractors to submit tokens (other than those used for Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) claims) to the NHSBSA whilst the suspension of signature requirements remains in place. PSNC will issue an update on token submission requirements as soon as confirmation from DHSC is received on this.

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

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