



# Daily Update

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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

**In today's update: PSNC CEO video; Pandemic Delivery Service extended; Easter bank holiday opening; Lateral Flow Testing in pharmacies; NHSE&I wellbeing event.**

## PSNC CEO releases video message

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes has recorded another video message for community pharmacy contractors and their teams.

In the video Simon describes the impact that the lack of fair funding for pharmacy could have on patients, highlighting concerns around the growing number of pharmacy closures.

[Watch the CEO's video](#)

## Pandemic Delivery Service extended

In [a letter published by NHS England and NHS Improvement](#) (NHSE&I) this evening, it has been confirmed that the Community Pharmacy Home Delivery Service will be commissioned from 19th February 2021 to 31st March 2021 (inclusive) for all clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) patients living in England.

This news follows the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announcement made earlier this week that up to 1.7m more individuals have been identified as CEV and would be added to the Shielded Patient List and that **the Government's shielding advice and support was being extended nationally until 31st March 2021.**

[Full details here](#)

## Easter Bank Holiday opening

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have this week confirmed that there are currently no plans to ask all of primary care, including community pharmacy, to routinely open on Good Friday (2nd April) and Easter Monday (5th April) again, but that it would keep its position under review, subject to the changing demands of the pandemic.

NHSE&I said that Regional Teams are working with LPCs and pharmacy contractors to ensure sufficient cover arrangements are in place to meet expected demands for services over Easter, and expressed gratitude to those who will be working during the bank holiday weekend.

NHSE&I also indicated that COVID-19 vaccination services remain the exception, providing a 7-day service where necessary, including bank holidays. Further communications on the arrangements for these sites will follow.

## Services case study: Lateral Flow Testing in community pharmacy

Community pharmacies in several parts of England are now providing lateral flow testing, as part of a local authority organised service. This includes pharmacies in parts of London, including Kingston and Merton, where they are providing testing programmes for asymptomatic residents.

Lateral flow testing is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus. The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms, so a test that rapidly detects these otherwise hidden cases is a very useful additional tool for tackling the virus.

[Find out more about Lateral Flow Testing in pharmacies](#)

## NHSE&I wellbeing event

NHSE&I are inviting all colleagues leading, working in and supporting Primary Care to a virtual, interactive and engaging event to help begin the conversation into the wellbeing needs of the Primary Care workforce and how to collaboratively support those needs. This online event will be held on **Wednesday 3rd March, 1pm – 3pm**.

Appreciating the current pressures on the healthcare system and how not everyone who wants to attend will be able to make this, this event is designed to begin the conversation with further events to be held in the future. It is the starting point of an ongoing and collaborative conversation in this area.

[Learn more and register for 'Wellbeing and the Primary Care Workforce'](#)

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

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



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