



Issue 83/Wednesday 26 May 2021

This is the latest round-up of information for GP practices, produced by South East London CCG. Should you have any questions or need advice, contact your local borough primary care team in the first instance; they will escalate anything they can't resolve to south east London's Coronavirus co-ordination centre.

Please check for any borough-specific information, which will be attached to this bulletin by your borough primary care commissioning team.

Covid-19

Bumper vaccination week across SEL

Thanks to the tireless work of NHS staff, volunteers and partners, over 114,682 vaccinations were administered in south east London (SEL) last week. This is the largest number of vaccines recorded across SEL for any single week since the COVID-19 vaccination programme began.

Of these, 59,641 people received their second dose, ensuring they are fully vaccinated and therefore better protected against COVID-19.

Teams across south east London have now administered over 1.4 million vaccinations, of which 55% have been delivered by SEL PCN sites, 10% by pharmacies and 35% by acute centres.

SRO for the SEL Vaccination programme Sam Hepplewhite said, 'we remain deeply grateful for the dedication and hard work of everyone on this programme. We are awed by the efforts of the teams who continue to meet every challenge we have faced in delivering this lifesaving programme in south east London.'

This achievement comes as SEL vaccination teams work towards accelerating second doses from 12 weeks to 8 for those most vulnerable, in cohorts 1-9, as part of measures to tackle rising cases of the B.1.617.2 variant of concern.

COVID-19 Vaccine Pfizer-BioNTech: change to shelf life when stored in refrigerators at 2-8°C

On 20 May 2021, following an assessment of additional data supplied by Pfizer/BioNTech, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has amended the Conditions of Authorisation of the COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2. This change extends the approved storage period of the unopened, thawed vial at 2-8°C (i.e. cold chain conditions) from five days to one month (31 days). More [here](#).

COVID-19 Staff testing and reporting

Lateral Flow Testing: Regular staff testing for COVID-19 is critical to protect staff and patients and slow the spread of COVID-19. Rapid testing kits (lateral flow devices) make regular testing easy to do. Testing is important, even if you've been vaccinated, as vaccination does not provide 100% protection, so staff testing for coronavirus should be a regular habit - twice a week, every week.

LFDs are effective in quickly identifying those who don't have symptoms but are very likely to transmit COVID-19. This will prevent the virus from entering your workplace and stopping outbreaks before they occur. Since rapid testing was introduced, over 120,000 positive cases that would not have been found otherwise have already been identified by rapid testing kits.

If you are non-symptomatic, please access Lateral Flow Test Kits from: www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests (7 kits per household can be ordered per day if you have no symptoms). This will be delivered to your home. You can also collect test kits from a test site or from a pharmacy (only in England) from: maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/

If you are symptomatic, please access PCR Testing from: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test (use this route if you need a confirmatory PCR following a positive lateral flow test).

PCR Tests: General Practice settings are encouraged to access a small stock of PCR swab testing kits. These can be used with patients who present with COVID-19 symptoms and symptomatic GP staff and their household members where needed. Note the first point of call should still be one of the national routes. Assistance in ordering these can be made via the Specialist Team on 119. For further information, visit gov.uk/here.

Find out more [here](#) (updated 21 May 2021).

Vaccine resources in Yiddish

The British Society for Immunology (BSI) together with the Contemporary Hasidic Yiddish research team at UCL have translated some of their vaccination resources into Yiddish.

The resources explain different aspects of how vaccines work, how they protect against disease, the ingredients found in vaccines, as well as how testing for COVID-19 works. Find these [online](#).

Please share these resources with your networks in the Orthodox Jewish community in London. BSI are working on a printed version and if you are interested in distributing printed copies, or if you have any queries, please contact Erika Aquino at the society directly: E.Aquino@immunology.org.

GP updates

Cervical Screening SMS Text Reminder Catch-Up project - Incident update

Following the recent incident in which NHS England sent cervical smear text reminders to more than 3000 women who were not due for a smear.

NHS England have now sent an apology text message to the affected women, as follows:

[Practice Name]: You recently received an SMS which incorrectly advised you that your cervical screen is due. Please ignore this message. NHS England apologise for the error. You will receive an invitation letter when you are next due for screening. Your GP practice can help if you need further information.

All smears taken when not due are not processed. Practice staff are reminded to please check Open Exeter or their local IT system, and ensure that each woman is eligible for cervical screening before carrying out the test.

Learning from a serious incident involving an unlicensed special

A recent serious incident involving the prescribing and supply of the wrong concentration of a high-risk oral liquid medicine for a new-born child has highlighted some areas of learning relating to safe prescribing and dispensing of unlicensed specials. Key learning points for both prescribers and dispensers are outlined in this [document](#).

Information from Acute Providers

Evelina London Children's Hospital – planning application for expansion

There are plans to expand and improve the Evelina London Children's Hospital to accommodate the growing number of children and young people who need life-changing specialist care.

Following months of engagement with community and stakeholders on proposed plans, the planning application has been submitted to the London Borough of Lambeth for the new hospital building, which will be joined to the existing children's hospital. [View the proposals](#) by entering the planning reference **21/01869/FUL** into the planning portal's search function through the [link](#).

For more information, read the update in the Evelina London stakeholder [newsletter](#).

e-RS updates

[See the latest e-RS updates from Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.](#)

New service updates include:

- Allergy vaccine process for Guys and St Thomas'
- Suspension of Advice and Guidance referrals
- Rapid Access Diagnostic Service update
- Hand Therapy referrals
- Free Mindfulness sessions

Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

COVID-19 Response - Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust - GP Learning Events

Access a [list](#) of GP learning events from GSTT which covers:

- Equitable care for LGBT+ patients in Cancer Screening and Early Diagnosis
- Home Mechanical Ventilation UK Meeting 2021
- Maudsley Learning – Wellbeing in Action: Preventing Illness and Sustaining Recovery
- Applying Genomics to Clinical Practice
- South East London Primary Care Cancer Webinar Series

COVID-19 Learning disability annual health check webinar

The learning disabilities and autism programme invites all primary care clinicians to this one-hour webinar with key speaker Dr Lucia Anthonypillai, Bromley Learning Disability GP Clinical Lead.

Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 12:30 – 13:30

This CPD session will focus on:

- Why and how we do LD annual health checks.
- The importance of reasonable adjustment.
- Upskills anyone new to AHC.
- Strengthens the skills of clinicians.

For further information, see [here](#). To join the event, see [here](#).

Understanding autism training

For the third year running, Laurie Morgen, an autistic author, speaker, trainer and workshop facilitator is delivering a range of bespoke free virtual training sessions targeted at South East London healthcare workers, local council staff, teachers, social workers and community care providers to challenge misconceptions and myths surrounding autism in a real and relevant way.

- **Teams working with young people (14-25 years old) in the community:**
Register [here](#) - Thursday 03 June 2021 10:00-13:00
- **Teams working with children (0-14 years old) in the community:**
Register [here](#) - Thursday 10 June 2021 10:00-13:00
- **Teams working with adults in the community:**
Register [here](#) - Thursday 17 June 2021 10:00-13:00
Register [here](#) - Thursday 24 June 2021 10:00-13:00
- **Primary Care providers staff:**
Register [here](#) - Thursday 01 July 2021 10:00-13:00
- **Hospital Care providers staff:**
Register [here](#) - Thursday 08 July 2021 10:00-13:00

For further information read the [flyer](#).

Research

Closing the gaps: Improving empathy, attitudes, and motivational interviewing skills in primary care professionals

Maudsley Learning, with collaborators from Kings College London, has been awarded a research grant from the [Closing the Gap Network](#) to develop and evaluate a simulation training programme for primary care services. This project will deliver and evaluate a training programme to support healthcare staff in having helpful health change conversations with individuals with SMI.

We are currently recruiting professionals who work in a clinical role in primary care for this research study. As part of this, you will attend a short 15-minute video assessment before and after the course and will have the opportunity to attend a 2-day simulation-based course for free. To find out more about the study and sign up to participate, please email marta.ortegavega@slam.nhs.uk

You can read more information on the study [here](#).

Cancer updates

South East London Cancer Alliance

Latest version of the update below, which also includes some FAQs for primary care on cancer services in south east London to support GPs and patients during the pandemic. Important updates include:

- Incident relating to the cervical screening programme
- Suggested breast cancer referrals
- Prostate Cancer UK Fast Track Referral Tool
- COVID-19 Vaccination in Cancer Patients

[Cancer updates for GPs \(17 May 2021\)](#)

Wellbeing

GP Professional Support Network

The London Wide LMC'S Professional Support Network (PSN) provides confidential, expert and impartial one-to-one advice and support to any individual constituent GP. Practice Support is also delivered directly by the present GP Support team or through our network of associates.

If you are unsure which service you need or wish to talk to someone then please contact the LMC's **peer to peer professional advice and support service** who will be able to support and direct you to the most appropriate intervention.

To access a service, you will need to register with the online [platform](#).

Other wellbeing support options for NHS staff include:

- Keeping well in SEL - an [online resource](#) providing free wellbeing and psychological support for all NHS staff in south east London.
- A range of [wellbeing support options](#) from the NHS
- London Wide LMC's Professional Support Network (PSN) provides confidential, expert and impartial one-to-one advice and support to GPs and practices. [Visit their website](#) for further details.

LMC Elections 2021

SEL LMCs elections 2021 nominations are now open

LMCs represent every GP practice in their area and every person working within each one. Standing for your LMC means giving a voice to your colleagues and personally developing new skills.

The deadline for nominations is 5:00pm on Friday 28 May 2021 and nominations are sought from every GP working in SEL, whether a partner, employed, locum, new entrant or trainee GP.

If you have not received your nomination pack by post or email, or if you have any LMC elections related queries, please contact lmc-elections@lmc.org.uk.

You can complete your nomination form by visiting www.cesvotes.com/londonwidelmcs which also includes frequently asked questions and further information on the roles and responsibilities of being an LMC member.

Recruitment

Population Health Fellow (SEL CCG)

An exciting opportunity has arisen to take on the position of Fellow in Population Health, funded by Health Education England, and based in South East London CCG to commence from September 2021.

The new year-long HEE Population Health Fellowship welcomes qualified health professionals from all clinical disciplines (from AfC Band 6 and above or equivalent, doctors-in-training from ST1 and SAS doctors) and is now open to applications. Please click [here](#) for further information and to apply.

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