



Issue 96/Wednesday 25 August 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

COVID-19 vaccinations of at risk 12- to 15-year-olds – Action required by 26 August

NHSE/I issued a [letter](#) on 13 August 2021, which provided details on the actions all practices need to take to help identify eligible 12 to 15 year-olds (cohort 13) to ensure they are offered a COVID-19 vaccination appointment by 23 August 2021. Searches are also being undertaken by:

- Children's hospitals - Specialist paediatric hospitals to contact parents of this cohort to bring them for vaccination or advising to contact their GP for advice on how to get vaccinated.
- Hospital paediatric services - Paediatric departments to contact parents of eligible children and young people on their registers, to advise them to speak to their GP about getting vaccinated.
- Community paediatric services – to contact parents of eligible children and young people on their registers, to advise them to speak to their GP about getting vaccinated.
- GSTT call centre – This is a safety net approach; GPs are requested to send refreshed lists of unvaccinated/unappointed children.

Action required – GPs to forward refreshed lists of unvaccinated/unappointed children by middle of the week commencing 23 August for GSTT call centre to commence calls on 26 August.

Please email the lists to either Matthew.Young@gstt.nhs.uk or Andrea.Fernandes@gstt.nhs.uk.

St Thomas' 'Paeds Pod' for COVID-19 vaccination to 12- to 15-year-olds with increased risk of coronavirus

We are being asked to offer Covid-19 vaccination to 12 to 15 year olds with increased risk from coronavirus; these are children with:

- Severe neuro-disabilities
- Down's syndrome
- Underlying condition resulting in immunosuppression
- A diagnosis of learning/intellectual disability, or they are on the learning disability register

Children and young people in this category should be offered two doses of Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, 8 weeks apart.

We are asking hospital and community teams to draw up lists of children and young people in this category and advise them to contact their GP, or to attend a specially established 'Paeds Pod' at St Thomas's hospital. The Paeds Pod will run at St Thomas' Hospital. Appointments will be available from 10am-4pm starting Wednesday, 25th August, for 10 days initially (including the weekend and bank holiday).

Parents of children who would like to use the Paeds Pod should email:

CovidVaccineBookings@gstt.nhs.uk or telephone 0207 188 4040.

COVID-19 vaccination programme for 16 and 17-year-old serving personnel in the Armed Forces and families registered with Defence Medical Services (DMS)

Following recent independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) updated guidance in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations for children and young people that was communicated to you in the [letter](#) from Professor Sir Keith Willett and Dr Nikki Kanani. NHSE/I has [agreed](#) with the Ministry of Defence and DMS that they will immunise the 16–17-year-old patients registered with a DMS practice at Phase 1 training establishments and the Army Foundation College at Harrogate; vaccine supply is being made available to them to do so.

In areas where there are small numbers of 16- and 17-year-olds that are widely spread across the country, there is a need to provide a vaccination service through local primary care networks (PCNs). Across England, we anticipate this is to be approximately 1,000 people in total made up of small numbers at various locations. Defence Primary Healthcare medical centres will identify and contact local PCNs requesting that access to the vaccination service is given and provide details of numbers attending. Remuneration for this population is included in the [Enhanced Service Specification COVID-19 vaccination programme: phase 3 2021/22](#).

NHSE/I thank you once again for your continued hard work and commitment to the population of England and also for your support to the Armed Forces population throughout.

New regulation - Vaccinations for NHS staff entering care homes (Letter and FAQs)

From 11 November 2021, all staff entering a care home need to be vaccinated unless exempt. Following the publication of [DHSC operational guidance](#), [NHSE/I has written to you and published FAQs](#) on how this new regulation will be delivered operationally. All relevant providers of NHS-funded services will need to:

actively support staff to have their first COVID-19 vaccine by 16 September (as eight weeks is required between the two doses)

carry out proactive workforce planning to ensure:

- only staff who are vaccinated, or exempt, are deployed to a care home from 11 November
- service provision is not disrupted once this regulation comes into force

ensure that relevant staff can demonstrate to care home staff, via the NHS COVID pass service, that they have either had two doses or are exempt. The [FAQs](#) will be updated regularly, to support systems and providers to implement this new regulation.

Monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19 approved

MHRA has given regulatory [approval](#) for the first monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19 in the UK. Confirmation of how Ronapreve will be deployed to patients will be issued shortly. Recent data from the RECOVERY trial [suggested](#) the drug reduced the risk of mortality by 20% in hospitalised patients who did not mount a natural immune response to COVID.

Updates to GP Covid Vaccination dashboard

The GP Covid Vaccine Dashboard, introduced to help PCN-led vaccination sites and GP Practices to easily identify and contact patients who have not yet had their first or second doses, has now been live for a few weeks and NHS Digital is seeing a growing number of users. New features have already been released – including the addition of 16- and 17-year-olds in line with the latest JCVI guidance. If you haven't already accessed the dashboard, further information and support is available on [FutureNHS](#).

Reminder - Guidance on staff and student self-isolation and return to work

The government's requirements to self-isolate after a positive COVID-19 contact changed on **Monday 16 August 2021**. This [letter](#) outlines how this change will impact staff and students working in the NHS. This supersedes previous PHE guidance and applies to all staff including substantive clinical and non-clinical roles, staff bank, contractors and suppliers – and students working in all facilities, settings and organisations delivering NHS care. PHE's updated guidance is [here](#).

Asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 for NHS staff and volunteers in vaccination sites

NHSE/I advised that the way that NHS staff and volunteers access lateral flow device (LFD) tests has changed. LFD testing kits should be ordered through the [government portal](#). The tests are free and will be delivered people's home addresses within a few days. Asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 is an important component of Infection Prevention and Control, which all organisations and staff have a duty to adhere to. We are grateful for the continued efforts of staff and volunteers in keeping colleagues and patients safe from potential transmission of COVID-19 in healthcare settings. A [supporting LFD standard operating procedure](#) for vaccination sites has been published and explains more about how and when to test using LFDs, and reporting the results. There are also [frequently asked questions](#) on LFD testing for primary care and for NHS trusts on NHS England and NHS Improvement website.

COVID-19 staff testing and reporting

Regular antigen testing of all practice staff is critical to protect staff and patients and slow the spread of Covid-19. Staff testing is vital - even after vaccination. ALL test results regardless of outcome must be reported. Find out more [here](#) in our weekly update.

GP updates

Becton Dickinson Blood Tubes – Update on European stock

Please see below an update from NHS Supply Chain and associated operational guidance regarding the supply disruption in relation to the Becton Dickinson Blood Specimen Collection Portfolio incident:

We have been notified of a supply disruption in relation to Becton Dickinson (BD) on their Blood Specimen Collection Portfolio. Details of the products impacted and the demand management measures in place are included in the [Important Customer Notice](#), issued by NHS Supply Chain. NHS England and NHS Improvement recently shared background information on this issue.

NHS/E/I issued urgent [guidance on recommended actions](#) earlier this week. **This guidance must be shared with all clinical staff and acted on immediately.** This guidance applies to **all organisations** regardless of supplier to ensure equity of care as well as preserving alternative stocks to support mutual aid.

As part of the response to the BD blood tubes supply disruption, NHS Supply Chain has obtained some BD tubes which have previously been part of European stocks, but were manufactured in the UK. While these stocks will help, supply of the BD blood tubes will remain constrained.

These tubes are identical in every respect to the stock used in the UK and they are CE marked. However, the label is slightly different. The label on the European stock is blank, with no guidance on which Patient Identifiers to add onto label.

This stock is going into the supply chain from next week so your organisation may receive deliveries of these tubes. These should be used in the same way as the UK stock.

Please make your staff aware that some tubes being delivered may appear different but are identical in terms of use.

Please ensure your normal labelling guidance is reiterated to staff especially where manual tube labelling takes place.

If you or your teams have any questions about this please contact your pathology incident director in the first instance.

Introduction of Shingrix® for immunocompromised individuals for whom Zostavax® is clinically contraindicated.

From 1 September 2021, GPs should offer the non-live shingles vaccine Shingrix® to all those who are eligible for shingles vaccination but are clinically contraindicated to receive the live vaccine Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status. This is

based on the recommendation made by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. Please read the PHE letter in full [here](#).

SEL CCG funding Ardens Pro for all SEL GP practices for one year

At the end of 2020/21 South East London CCG, in discussion with our SEL primary care clinical leadership group, identified a need to consider investment into a clinical template and resources system that would support our population health management approach.

Following clinical engagement to define the criteria required from such a system, a process of procurement was undertaken which resulted in the contract being awarded to Ardens to deliver their “Pro” package from August 2021 for one year. Ardens’ range of resources will align with and supplement the support that the Clinical Effectiveness SE London (CESEL) Programme will provide to practices.

The [attached](#) summarises the functionality available with Ardens Pro. It will be up to individual boroughs to decide the extent to which they wish to localise the Ardens resources. The options available are to include localisation to align with the borough’s Locally Commissioned Services, and also integration of local referral forms.

All practices should now have received direct e-mails from Ardens to arrange deployment and training. The implementation will be led by Ardens and supported by the SEL Digital first team but in partnership with the Clinical Effectiveness team and link directly with the borough primary care teams. If you have not heard from the team, please contact accounts@ardens.org.uk directly with your query. The Ardens Support Team can be contacted via support-emis@ardens.org.uk should you have any queries after installation. If you need to contact the CCG about this offer, please contact your local borough’s Digital First change manager in the first instance.

Many practices across SEL already use Ardens. These sites will be offered a pro-rata refund of their payment. Please note that this will happen automatically and the organisation that paid for the subscription (GP practice / PCN / Federation) will receive an email from the Ardens accounts team in the next few weeks. There is no need to contact Ardens to request this refund.

SEL CCG is looking forward to working with Ardens over the next year and hope practices will take advantage of this exciting opportunity to access these resources and templates designed to support you.

For information – NHSE/I letter to Primary Care Networks re. plans for 2021/22 and 2022/23

Read the letter from 23 August in full [here](#).

Workforce planning submissions now live – deadline 31 August 2021

Notice from The Primary Care Workforce team - The [2021/22 Network contract DES](#) specifies that all PCNs are required to complete workforce planning returns providing details of their updated recruitment plans for 2021/22 by 31 August 2021.

These submissions contribute to workforce planning at local, regional and national level and it is important that all PCNs complete the submission so that we can provide the appropriate support and guidance. The information also helps shape how investment, training and resource is directed across primary care.

The submission template is now [available on NHSE/I website](#) and supporting guidance has been shared [on FutureNHS](#) to help PCNs to submit their information.

Action - PCNs are encouraged to complete their template and send to their borough PCN leads by the 31 August deadline.

Prescription fraud newsletter July 2021

The newsletter provides details of a small sample of investigated prescription frauds and highlights the potential opportunities for these frauds to occur. There is also advice on the actions that practices can take to mitigate these risks. Read in full [here](#).

Changes to how we share final vaccine schedules and daily LVS consumables delivery schedules

- Delivery schedules will no longer be shared by email through NVOC
- Final vaccine and consumables delivery schedules are now available on the Supply Planner in real time
- All sites must use the Supply Planner to view or amend vaccine orders, saving time and creating better visibility of when volume changes have been approved

Read about the changes in full [here](#).

Supply-related query resolution over the August Bank Holiday weekend (all vaccination sites)

- Unipart Customer Service Helpdesk 0800 678 1650
CS@nhsvaccinesupport.com will be open with a reduced team on Saturday 28 August and Monday 30 August.
- It will be closed on Sunday 29 August, with NVOC providing support on this day.

Date	Status	Comments	Contact details for this day
Saturday 28 Aug	Open	Reduced team to support any emergency deliveries or queries	07:00 to 19:00 0800 678 1650 CS@nhsvaccinesupport.com 0800 678 1650
Sunday 29 Aug	Closed	The National Vaccine Operations Centre (NVOC) will provide support to Unipart on this day. The Unipart Customer Service Helpdesk will signpost people to NVOC's email address	england.covidvaccs@nhs.net

Monday 30 Aug	Open	Reduced team to support any emergency deliveries or queries	07:00 to 19:00 0800 678 1650 CS@nhsvaccinesupport.com 0800 678 1650
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Normal opening hours of 07:00 to 19:00 will resume on Tuesday 31 August.

Please note that NVOC will be the conduit for Sunday 29 August only. This is an **exceptional process to provide emergency-related queries only**. They can be contacted by emailing england.covidvaccs@nhs.net on this day only 08:00 to 18:00.

Access to primary care for holidaymakers – call your own GP first

General practice in popular holiday locations is under increasing pressure to manage the huge influx of patients. The message to visitors wherever they are staying is to call their own GP at home if they need health care or advice. Patients can be assessed and treated by their own practice by phone or video consultation in most cases. Managing your own patients when they are on holiday around the country, without referring them to a local practice, is an important way you can support colleagues in general practice this summer.

The message for pharmacies is to visit a local pharmacy where people are staying; pharmacists can help with minor health concerns like tummy troubles, aches and pains and many more.

Urgent notice from Primary Care Digital Delivery team – decommissioning of Windows 7 and Windows 8 devices

There are still a number of Windows 7 and Windows 8 devices in use and these need to be shut down and decommissioned as they represent a security risk to the network. Moreover, these out-of-date devices, are in breach of the DSP Toolkit and are not adhering to the GP IT Operating Model. If you have any devices that are in active (and valid use) that are still on Windows 7 or 8 please email details to selccg.digital@nhs.net outlining why these are required so we can review them. **Please reply no later than 17.00 on Tuesday 7 September 2021 and kindly note that this is a hard deadline.**

They will be blocking these devices from accessing the network following the review and the date will be communicated nearer the time.

Read the notice in full [here](#).

Notice from Primary Care Digital Delivery team – shortage of IT equipment

The global shortage of some IT equipment has led to delays in the supply chain, with printers and laptops being particularly impacted. The Primary Care Digital Delivery team has advised that a recent order will help clear the most recent requests, but that critical and clinical impact requests will take priority.

Read the notice in full [here](#).

Pathology service transfer, question and answer webinar and FAQs

GPs from across Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham are invited to hear more about the transfer of pathology services to Viapath, which is the NHS/SYNLAB pathology partnership in South East London, in a question and answer webinar on Wednesday 15 September – 12.00 to 12.45pm.

The event will include a short presentation from representatives from SYNLAB UK & Ireland and Viapath, and it will provide practices with an opportunity to take part in an open question and answer session about the transfer.

Further details, including an invite to the event, will be forwarded to practices shortly.

Additionally, a series of FAQs to help provide GP practices with a quick reference point for queries about the transfer of pathology services has now been published on SYNLAB's website at: [GP Questions - South East London Pathology Services](#).

GP practices can also ask questions through a contact form on the site, and answers to future questions submitted through the form will be shared on the webpage.

If you have any queries about the webinar in the meantime, please email contactus@synlab.co.uk.

Information from Acute Providers

Consultant Connect advice line for General Paediatrics – service extends hours

From 1 July 2021, the advice line at Guy's and St Thomas' will be available from 9:00 to 19:00, Monday to Friday. Please call for urgent advice. Non-urgent advice is available via ERS or through your PCN child health team.

2WW referrals - information from GSTT Rapid access diagnostic clinic

When referring a patient on a suspected cancer pathway please can you ensure the 'Cognitive, Sensory or Mobility Impairment' and 'Safeguarding' section of all PAN London (including Rapid Access Diagnostic Clinic) referral is completed, and relevant details recorded.

This will help our Trust to make any necessary adjustments required to give your patient the assistance they need. For example, a patient who has a mental health condition, or classed as vulnerable (i.e., alcohol or drug dependency) may require extra support when booking or attending an appointment. On occasion pertinent information regarding a patient's mental health state is embedded in other sections of the referral, which are not routinely read by, or understood by the administrative teams booking a patient. To ensure we offer the correct level of support we would be grateful if this information is recorded in the appropriate section of the 2WW PAN London referral proformas.

Cancer updates

Updated - South East London Cancer Alliance

Please find below a link to the latest version of the update, which also includes FAQs for primary care on cancer services in south east London to support GPs and patients during the pandemic.

[Cancer updates for GPs \(25 August 2021\)](#)

Online seminars, webinars and e-Learning

SEL CCG webinar on COVID-19 vaccination and pregnant women

SEL CCG is running a webinar to address hesitancies and concerns and to increase uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant women.

The webinar session is for pregnant women, their partners and families, as well as the wider public. Attendees can ask questions and gain an understanding of how the COVID-19 vaccine reduces risk.

Thursday 26 August 2021 – 18.00 to 19.00. [Click here to join the Teams meeting.](#)

Free GP GSST virtual events

These talks count for one CPD point and a certificate of attendance will be sent to you.

Free dermatology seminar for primary care clinicians – skin lesions

Dr Naomi Kemp and Dr Sara Ritchie GPwER in Dermatology will host a webinar focusing on 20 principles for differentiating benign and malignant skin lesions in primary care.

Wednesday 8 September 2021 - 1.30 to 14.30. Register [here](#).

South London primary care webinar - abdominal aortic aneurysms

The session will cover:

- AAA screening programme and referrals (overview of the service, procedures to escalate)
- Pre-assessment, optimisation (overview of how this works, factors considered, endovascular/open surgery decision making, POPs)
- Post-operative surveillance
- Q&A

Wednesday 8 September 2021 – 19.15 to 20.30. Register [here](#).

Pain management

Virtual seminar covering chronic pain management and fibromyalgia, including Q&A.

Tuesday 21 September 2021 - 13:30 to 14.30. Register [here](#).

Data Security and protection toolkit – monthly Data Protection officer drop-in sessions

GP Practices members are encouraged to attend the NHS SEL CCG - Data Protection Officer drop-in sessions which are run on various DSPT topics on a monthly basis.

The CCG would strongly encourage practices sign up for these sessions as a critical part of their on-going information governance framework. Practices may wish to nominate an IG lead to attend these sessions and cascade their learning to colleagues in the practice.

- New DSPT workplan rollout - Wednesday 8 September 2021 – 12.30 to 13.30
- Records Management - Wednesday 13 October 2021 – 12.30 to 13.30
- Privacy notices and confidentiality audits - Wednesday 10 November 2021 – 12.30 to 13.30
- Information asset register and information asset owners - Wednesday 8 December 2021 – 12.30 to 13.30

To attend contact claireclements@nhs.net and arrangements will be made for an invite to be sent.

All other IG enquires for the NHS SEL CCG GP practices members DPO service must be directed through nelcsu.information-governance@nhs.net

National wellbeing conversation training programme starting 1 September 2021

[The national training programme](#) has been designed to support NHS colleagues in having safe and effective wellbeing conversations, as set out in the NHS People Plan. The programme is initially aimed at line managers, peers and colleagues working across the NHS in roles which have caring responsibilities for staff - for example clinical and educational supervisors, team leaders, members of staff networks, health and wellbeing champions or Wellbeing Guardians.

Training will be held via MS Teams in the first instance, and delegates will need to commit to attending the full session.

Read more about this programme and view available dates [here](#).

SEL Training Hubs - Active Listening

SEL Training Hubs is running two active listening workshops.

- A short workshop for supervisors to allow them to have mental health conversations with their teams, identify those struggling and signpost them for further support. The session is 90 minutes and there are various dates throughout September. More information and how to register can be found [here](#).
- There is also the opportunity to partake in a 'train the trainer' session for peer support practitioners or other key personnel so that learning can be disseminated. Thursday, 30 September 2021 - 9:00 to 11:30. More information and to register can be found [here](#).

Webinar – GSTT St John's DermAcademy Dermatology Course for GPs

Learn about assessment and management of common skin conditions. The lectures are delivered by consultant dermatologists at St John's Institute of Dermatology, and there will be an interactive Q&A. All lectures are available online for 1 month following the webinar.

Wednesday 8 October 2021 – 8.30 to 17.00. More information and book via the [link](#).

Events

Hold the date – SEL CCG AGM

Thursday 16 September 2021 – 12.00 to 14.00

Information on how to join will be on [SEL CCG website](#) nearer the time.

Hold the date – SEL CCG September Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 16 September 2021 – 13.00 to 16.00

Join [here](#) on the day via MS Teams.

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