



Issue 97/Wednesday 1 September 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

Updated – COVID-19 vaccination Information for healthcare practitioners.

PHE has [issued](#) an updated COVID-19 vaccination programme - information for healthcare practitioners.

1. Updated to include:

- • Revisions to the [Green Book COVID-19 Chapter](#)
- • GBS and Capillary Leak Syndrome
- • Vaccination to 12- to 17-year-olds
- • Consent for Children and Young People

2. Appendix 2 revised to detail transition from use of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine Reg 174 to use under Conditional Marketing Authorisation.

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

Updated urgent guidance on Becton Dickinson blood specimen collection - supply disruption.

ACTION - Please read NHS England [letter](#) from 26 August

Key Messages

- **The letter states that all primary care and community testing must be halted until 17 September 2021, except for clinically urgent testing**
- The guidance does not apply to paediatric blood tests – though it is important to stress that paediatric blood tubes should not be used for adults
- We did send out some suggested messaging that you could use with patients yesterday – either directly when dealing with a patient and for placing on your website. This attached again for your convenience
- It has been agreed that the review of patients who are currently booked for phlebotomy appointments from the **6 September** will be undertaken by the GP or the referring clinician who will decide whether the blood test is urgent or not, therefore giving adequate time for providers to pull requests, practices to review, and for patients to be informed.
- Phlebotomy providers will send practices a list of their patients with appointments 5 working days or more in advance to ask them to review.
- Referral requests that have been made in the last few days will be respected.
- **No cancellations** will be made unless the referring practice has reviewed the referral and deemed it to be non-urgent
- Any new requests made to a provider will be assumed to be urgent / in line with the guidelines and will be accepted.
- T-Quest will be modified to allow for a pop-up message on t-Quest which requires the GP to confirm that the blood test is urgent
- Finally if your practice is approached for comment by the media, please refer them to NHS England as this is a nationally managed incident

Please remember, where the clinical decision is that a patient needs an urgent blood test then that is the right thing to do.

We will make sure that you receive regular updates and information on this issue.

Public Messaging

- A supplier to the NHS has advised us of a global shortage of some equipment used for taking blood tests.
- Anyone who needs a test for urgent health problems, will still get one but where your clinician recommends that it's safe to do so, then you may be asked to come back for a test at a later date, or your appointment may be rescheduled.
- Given the nature of the shortage, we cannot give an exact date for when the test will be rescheduled, but please be assured that if your condition or symptoms require it, then you will get a test, and we will be re-booking your test when supplies become more easily available.
- **If your condition or symptoms change or get worse, please contact the NHS as you would normally.**

As this is a national incident we are asking that if you are approached by the media please contact the national team via the regional team at london.commsteam@nhs.net

Looking for people with lived experience of diabetes to help us shape services

SEL CCG are working to improve outcomes and services for people living with diabetes. We are looking for two people and two deputies from each of the boroughs to form a south east London diabetes lived experience group to support programme structures at south east London and borough level. Once this group is in place, we will be seeking two people with two deputies from the group to sit on the South East London Diabetes and Obesity Delivery Board which meets four times a year. We also expect the lived experience group to meet four times a year.

There is further information on the website at [Involving people with diabetes - South East London CCG \(selondonccg.nhs.uk\)](https://selondonccg.nhs.uk) including role outlines, expression of interest form and equality monitoring form. **The closing date for receipt of completed forms is Monday 6 September at 9am.**

Vaccines for the 2021/22 children's flu programme supplied by PHE - Fluenz® Tetra (LAIV) now available to order

***** The most up to date information on the availability of all children's flu vaccines provided by PHE is available on the ImmForm news page. Please check this information regularly*****

Fluenz® Tetra (LAIV) is now available to order by providers of the children's flu programme in England via ImmForm.

First deliveries for Fluenz® Tetra will be made on Wednesday 1 September. Please be mindful of the bank holiday schedule (see [ImmForm News](#)) when placing orders.

Inactivated vaccines, for children in clinical risk groups for whom LAIV is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable, or eligible healthy children who object to LAIV on the grounds of its porcine gelatine content, are expected to be available to order by mid-September.

LAIV ordering information for General Practice

As in previous years, ordering controls are in place for Fluenz® Tetra to enable PHE to balance supply with demand. Ordering controls for general practices are tailored to each practice and work by allocating an amount of vaccine based on the number of registered eligible patients. Each GP practice has initially been allocated sufficient vaccine to vaccinate at least 50% of their eligible children (all 2- and 3-year-olds, plus children in clinical risk groups from age 4 to <18 years). Increases to the allocations will be applied as soon as sufficient stock becomes available to do so and we expect to be able to allocate sufficient vaccine for GPs to vaccinate at least 70% of their eligible cohort by mid-October. Further amendments to these allocations will be made in response to demand and vaccine availability, and requests for extra vaccine will be considered on a case by case basis throughout.

LAIV ordering information for school-age providers

For the first time in 2021/22, school teams will be able to place 2 orders, and receive 2 deliveries of LAIV per week to assist in the management of vaccine volumes required across limited storage space at delivery points.

This will operate on a 48-hour delivery schedule requiring the order to be placed before the 11.55am cut off 2 working days before the required delivery day. The table below illustrates the respective delivery day versus ordering day.

Order day (before 11.55am cut off)	Delivery day
Monday	Wednesday
Tuesday	Thursday
Wednesday	Friday
Thursday	Monday
Friday	Tuesday (PLEASE NOTE: deliveries placed on Friday 27 th August will be delivered on Wednesday 1 st September due to bank holiday scheduling)

Please ensure that the point of delivery will be open and manned on the delivery day when placing orders.

Please note that this does not affect the ordering and delivery schedule of any other vaccines (including inactivated flu vaccines) ordered from ImmForm and is applicable to Fluenz® Tetra (LAIV) only.

A default ordering cap of 450 packs (4500 doses) per week, per ImmForm account is in place for school providers.

- Where the 450 pack cap is insufficient and a provider needs a larger weekly volume of vaccine to deliver the programme (for example where a provider covers a large area using a single account), a higher weekly cap can be requested via the PHE Vaccine Operations team by emailing childfluvaccine@phe.gov.uk. These requests may take a few days to action and should therefore be made well in advance of need.
- For one-off larger orders during the ordering period, requests should be made via helpdesk@immform.org.uk in good time before the order cut-off.

Inactivated flu vaccine ordering

From mid-September, PHE will also be supplying 2 inactivated vaccines for the 2021/22 season:

- Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (split virion, inactivated) (QIVe) which should only be ordered for children in clinical risk groups aged from six months to less than 2 years old, with an initial order cap of 2 doses per week.
- Flucelvax Tetra (QIVc), which is available for:
 - Children aged 2 to <18 years old in clinical risk groups for whom LAIV is unsuitable; and
 - Healthy children from 2 years old and all eligible school aged cohorts, who object to LAIV on the grounds of its porcine gelatine content.
 - This vaccine will be available in a single dose pack to GPs, with an initial order cap of 8 doses per week.
 - This vaccine will be available to school-age providers in a ten-dose pack with an order cap of 45 packs per week. Each pack will be supplied with a separate pack of ten PILs.

In response to questions from patients about NHS PCR tests and travelling abroad

There have been reports that GP practice staff have been asked to provide COVID-19 PCR test results for patients wanting to travel abroad. Staff are advised to refer patients to current government advice on testing and travel and reiterate:

NHS tests cannot be used for the purpose of pre-departure testing before travel to England. You cannot take an NHS test abroad with you to use on yourself before you return.

For information – Lessons Learnt from Quality Alerts

The August 2021 edition is [here](#).

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.

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

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.

Free webinar - Top Tips for Managing Challenging Patient Interactions

To support GP practice reception staff, Qualitas (an NHS England delivery partner on the Time for Care programme) are running free live webinars to share top tips for GP practice reception teams to manage challenging patient interactions.

Wednesday 8 September 2021 - 12.30 to 13.30

Thursday 30 September 2021 - 12.30 to 13.30.

Register [here](#).

Online course - KHP Respiratory Partnership's Primary Care: Asthma, COPD and can patients have both?

Tuesday 19 October 2021 - 13:00 to 16:30

Further information and book [here](#).

PCSF Annual Conference

The [Primary Care Safeguarding Forum \(PCSF\)](#) is holding a virtual national safeguarding adult and child primary care conference, which includes a Level 3 stream for GP practice leads, Practice Managers and Practice Safeguarding Administrators.

24 September 2021 – 9.30 – 16.30

Further details on the conference and to book a place can be found [here](#).

Resources

Health and wellbeing offers for Primary Care

NHSE/I have a comprehensive package of emotional, psychological and practical health and wellbeing support available to NHS staff. Full details are available [here](#).

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