



**Issue 114/Wednesday 29 December 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 JCVI advice for the vaccination of children and young people**

On 22 December the government accepted updated advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the vaccination of children and young people. Please find attached [letter](#) regarding updated JCVI advice and operational next steps.

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### **Updated UK Health Security Agency and Government guidance on self-isolation**

Staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 may now be able to end their self-isolation period after seven days (the requirement has been 10 days), following two negative lateral flow device (LFD) tests taken 24 hours apart. Please read the [Letter](#) from UK Government on 23 December on latest changes to self-isolation rules.

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### **COVID-19 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 and below:

**Staff testing:** Reminder that all staff vaccinated or unvaccinated, should still be undertaking twice weekly asymptomatic testing using lateral flow test kits obtained from the .gov website (See below) and reporting ALL results on the government website. This is still needed to protect staff, colleagues, family member and patients within their care. It is advised when reporting to set up an account, this makes it quicker to report

subsequent test results as previous information is pre-populated. You can also scan the QR code on the test cartridge in cases where the text is too small to read easily.

**Lateral flow test kits for vaccination sites:** Please note that staff and volunteers should be accessing test kits via the national government website and should be testing and reporting before attending site. Order: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> and Report: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result). However, sites are still encouraged to hold a small supply for emergency use in cases where staff or volunteers turn up without having tested. Please let the SEL CCG Testing Team [selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net](mailto:selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net) know if you need any small supplies for emergency use and we will support obtaining a small number of kits from our Local Authority Partners.

**PCR kits in surgeries:** Reminder that GP practices should have a small stock of PCR kits for use in emergencies for staff or patients who present with possible covid symptoms. Assistance in ordering these can be made via the Specialist Team via 119. Please follow the link for information. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-testing-in-general-practice>

Changes to collection of lateral flow kits from local sites and pharmacies: Many collection sites are now requiring a 'collection code' before issuing up to 2 lateral flow test kits (7 tests in each box). The code can be obtained by following the information on the government website <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits> to obtain a collect code via text and email. Alternatively, some collection points are displaying a QR code which can be scanned to access a form which once completed will generate a collect code.

Lateral flow Instructions in other languages: SEL have successfully managed to petition for the 3 main languages used by Afghanistan's to support the many other translations already available. These can now be found on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>

Any testing questions please contact [avril.satchwell@nhs.net](mailto:avril.satchwell@nhs.net) Head of SEL CCG Covid Testing or the wider SEL Testing Team at [selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net](mailto:selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net)

## GP updates

### Requested Activation of Access to Patients Know Best via the NHS app

Patients Know Best is a personal health record system used by some hospital services to give patients access to their hospital health records. This includes renal services at Guy's and St Thomas'. Those patients may see information such as appointments, blood test results and radiology reports. Other patients may not see any information in their records at the start. They can add information themselves, such as medications, symptoms, and measurements like blood pressure.

A welcome message from Patients Know Best gives patients help and invites them to contact the supplier if they have questions.

We hope that your patients will find this a useful service. You can find more information about Patients Know Best on their [website](#).

Further information about this change to the NHS App, including some lines for practices to take with their patients where needed, can be found [here](#).

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## Reminder - General practice and pharmacy availability over Christmas and New Year

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 12 December, general practice has been working tirelessly to ensure all patients who are eligible, are offered a COVID booster by 31 December. This means that the majority of practice staff are being redeployed until the New Year to administer Covid booster vaccinations. Surgeries remain open for urgent appointments, but some appointments for routine care may be cancelled over the coming weeks.

[Further detail on this and pharmacy opening times over Christmas and the new year](#)

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## Make every contact count – pregnancy Covid-19 vaccination infographic

New [infographic](#) from MBRRACE-UK/UKOSS/RCGP/RCOG and others which summarises the key reasons why covid vaccination is important in pregnancy. Please share this with colleagues and use the information to support discussions with patients who have not yet been fully vaccinated.

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## Supporting patients and bed capacity through virtual wards and COVID Oximetry @home

Given rising Omicron case numbers, all ICSs should seek to put in place comprehensive coverage of COVID Oximetry @home (CO@h) and COVID Virtual Ward pathways to meet potential demand.

[Letter – supporting patients and bed capacity through virtual wards and COVID Oximetry @home](#)

Supporting information:

[Virtual ward including Hospital at Home](#)

[Frailty virtual ward \(hospital at home for those living with frailty\)](#)

[Guidance note – acute respiratory infection virtual ward](#)

[Updated COVID virtual ward SOP](#)

## Information from Acute Providers

### Kings College Hospital Phlebotomy Outpatients Christmas and New Year opening times

#### Denmark Hill Adults Service

Normal opening hours (07:30-17:45) except:

- Christmas Eve (7:30-14:00)
- December 25th-28th (CLOSED)
- January 1st-3rd 2022 (CLOSED)

*Open as normal from Tuesday 4th January.*

#### Denmark Hill Paediatrics Service

Normal opening hours (07:30-16:30) except:

- Christmas Eve (7:30-14:00)
- December 25th-28th (CLOSED)

- January 1st-3rd 2022 (CLOSED)  
*Open as normal from Tuesday 4th January.*

#### **Tessa Jowell Health Centre Service**

Normal opening hours (07:30-15:45) except:

- Christmas Eve (7:30-14:00)
- December 25th-28th (CLOSED)
- January 1st-3rd 2022 (CLOSED)

*Open as normal from Tuesday 4th January.*

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## **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 \(22 December 2021\)](#)

### **Resources**

#### **Reminder - Managing COVID-19 at home – social media messaging**

With an increase in Londoners testing positive for COVID-19 over the festive period, NHS England and NHS Improvement (London) has developed some messaging and assets that can be used on Twitter and Facebook to signpost people to NHS advice for managing COVID-19 at home. [Download the message and assets now.](#)

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#### **Updated general practice communications toolkit**

Following the release of the [general practice access routes campaign resources](#), we have updated the [general practice communications toolkit](#).

Please download and use this toolkit to support you in communicating to patients on how best to access services.

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