



**Issue 115/Wednesday 05 January 2022**

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**

### **Information on the Government's additional COVID-19 advice for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk**

The Government has provided new guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk of serious illness if they become infected with COVID-19.

This advice applies to those with weakened immune systems who are:

- eligible for a third primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; or
- eligible for new COVID-19 treatments.

A list of the people who meet these criteria is included in the following links:

- Third primary dose cohort – Green book chapter 14a, page 23
- nMABs /AV cohort – NHS England interim clinical commissioning policy, pages 8-10

Please see the letter from 4 January in full [here](#).

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### **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 Enhanced Service specification**

The Phase 3 General Practice Enhanced Service specification has been updated to enable the vaccination of 5-11 year olds in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed (as defined in the Green Book) only

when NHS England and NHS Improvement have advised the start date for vaccination of this cohort. The updated specification can be found [here](#).

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## New service available in CQRS

As part of the 2021/22 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme, primary care contractors (general medical services, pharmaceutical services, general dental services, and general ophthalmic services) and their frontline staff in clinical and non-clinical patient-facing roles will be eligible for an NHS flu vaccination this year. The adult seasonal flu Enhanced Service includes a requirement for general practice to return to the commissioner (NHSE), by no later than the 31 January 2022 and 30 April 2022 respectively, data on the number of primary care staff that they have vaccinated.

In addition, this data collection will seek voluntary information on the flu vaccination and COVID-19 vaccination status of practice staff. This data is being requested to help inform future planning to support encouraging vaccine uptake amongst the workforce, and for COVID-19 to support ongoing planning around workforce capacity and service provision.

For the COVID-19 vaccine, new regulations come into effect from 1 April 2022 which will require individuals undertaking CQC regulated activities in England AND engaging in face-to-face care with patients to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Further detail is available at [www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination-programme/vaccination-as-a-condition-of-deployment-for-all-healthcare-workers/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination-programme/vaccination-as-a-condition-of-deployment-for-all-healthcare-workers/). These indicators request information on the number of staff employed or otherwise deployed in the practice who have either a) received a first and second dose of the vaccine; b) have a medical exemption or c) do not intend to get vaccinated by 31 March 2022. Data is requested for the following groups:

- **GPs.** This includes all GPs employed or engaged within the practice, including GP partners, salaried GPs, GP locums, foundation doctors and GP registrars.
- **Direct Patient Care.** This includes nurses, PCN staff employed or engaged through the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (see full list here <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-des-specification-2021-22/>), and other allied health professionals, including those in training.
- **Admin / non-clinical roles.** This includes practice managers, receptionists, estates, students, volunteers, or any other ancillary roles deployed within the practice

For flu vaccination status this includes the number of practice and PCN staff who have received a flu vaccination via any route, with data being requested on the number of practice staff vaccinated for flu:

- through the NHS scheme as primary care staff,
- through the NHS scheme as another eligible cohort,
- privately,
- via occupational health, or
- via another route.

This service is available in CQRS on the 21 December 2021

### **Information and Actions Required**

- This is for the manual entry service of twenty seven Management Information indicators
- The Region is commissioned to offer the service to the Service Providers who can accept the service in CQRS
- There is no declaration required for this service as it is for Management Indicators only
- You will be able to download a csv version of the data held within CQRS as per the current reporting process

- Should a Service Provider not return data for the voluntary information on practice staff vaccination status, then the service providers will need to input as 'zeros' and confirm accordingly to the commissioner.

This service has been offered out via CQRS this morning and is therefore available now.

Please can practices ensure that all vaccinated staff have been claimed via the Seasonal Flu programme in CQRS. These are not being automatically extracted by CQRS on a monthly basis. You **do not** therefore need to send any information at this time if you have not received payment for them. CQRS will still be making a one-off extraction after the programme has finished in March 2022. At this time practices will receive this information for checking and declaring. If any inaccuracies are noted then, practices can send us the information so that CQRS can be amended. We will update more on this service as and when we receive information from the CQRS team.

If you have any queries, please contact our team at [england.londonimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.londonimms@nhs.net).

Attached is the [original information in relation to healthcare staff](#) which also includes guidance as to how record them within practice systems.

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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-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)

## Information from Acute Providers

### From KCH - Paediatric X-Ray guidance

Follow-up chest radiographs for chest infection should not be performed in the paediatric population if the patient has clinically improved. It is only indicated if the patient has not improved or their condition has worsened, despite treatment. This is because the chest x-ray findings may be misleading, as they often lag behind clinical findings, and performing a repeat chest x-ray will incur unnecessary radiation exposure, which is unwarranted in the paediatric population and cannot be justified under IRMER. Follow-up of these patients should be clinical only.

### From GSTT - Gynae-Oncology

GSTT are currently experiencing high demand for Colposcopy, therefore there is a delay with routine and low-grade appointments. Due to an increase in telephone calls to the team, they ask that GPs advise patients that their appointment should now be booked within 3-4 weeks, as opposed to two, so that they are aware of current waiting times and when to follow up with the department if needed. They will update when this situation changes.

### No ENT Service at Kings College Hospital

Please be advised that KCH does not offer an ENT service. Please direct referrals to GSTT to avoid delays for your patients.

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

## Online seminars, webinars and e-learning

### GSTT lunchtime seminar - management of neurology conditions in primary care

Dr Andrew Thompson, Consultant neurologist at Guy's and St Thomas', invites you to learn about the general triage and diagnosis of neurology complaints in primary care "sensory symptoms/numbness/tingling". Includes a Q&A.

- **Wednesday 12 January 2022 – 13.30 to 14.30**

This event attracts one CPD point. Book via the [link](#).

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## **Webinar – vulnerable migrants: understanding and improving access to primary care**

- **Wednesday 26 January - 13.00 – 14.00.** Register by Friday 21 January [here](#).

The webinar will cover the common experiences and health needs of vulnerable migrants, key policies, entitlements and funding streams, and how frontline staff, managers and system leaders can help to address complex issues.

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## **SEND learning disability diagnostic pathways event**

- **Wednesday 12 January - 9.30 to 12.00.** [Register here](#).

Clinicians, learning disability, primary care and clinical leads, and commissioners are invited to this event, which will share information and innovative practice to support improvements to learning disability diagnostic pathways.

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## **January Public Health Briefing Monday**

The NHS, Greater London Authority, Association of Directors of Public Health, and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities are partnering with community organisations across the city to help get London Informed. This is an opportunity for the public to ask questions, raise concerns and receive expert advice on the COVID-19 vaccines, booster doses and the Omicron variant. A panel of senior health experts and leaders will share details of the current situation in London, talk about the role of vaccination and give participants the chance to ask any questions or raise any concerns they might have.

- **Tuesday 11 January 17.00 – 18.00.** Please register in advance via the [link](#)

More information is available from [London Informed: 'Big Conversation' community events | London City Hall](#).

## **Resources**

### **Staff facing vaccination communications**

New assets are available at [NHS CommsLink](#) to encourage staff to take up the COVID-19 vaccine offer and/or get their booster. These include key messages, FAQs and template digital and print assets, as well as a range of winter wellbeing comms assets.

More assets will be added over time, including more information regarding the VCOD (Vaccine as Condition of Deployment) regulations which are due to come into effect from 1 April 2022, subject to parliamentary passage.

Please continue to remind your colleagues that our national [health and wellbeing resources](#) are here when they are needed. There is also a new resource on [winter workforce preparedness](#) for line managers, which provides practical guidance on how to ensure our NHS people are all well supported.

If you have any queries, please contact [nhseandi.peopledirectorate@nhs.net](mailto:nhseandi.peopledirectorate@nhs.net).

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