



Issue 117/Wednesday 19 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

Updated UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance - isolation

Self-isolation for NHS staff

In line with the announcement of changes to the self-isolation guidance for those who have received a positive COVID-19 test result, staff who test positive will be able to leave self-isolation and return to work, if they test negative on days 5 and 6 after the date of their initial positive test, 24 hours apart, and providing they are medically fit, from Monday, 17 January. Read the guidance in full [here](#).

Vaccination as a condition of employment – national guidance

[Letter](#) and [implementation guidance](#) to support providers in the vaccination as a condition of deployment (VCOD) for healthcare workers, phase 2 implementation. There is also accompanying [FAQs](#).

There is also a new repository on [FutureNHS](#) for all VCOD-related information and resources.

Vaccination as a condition of employment – regional guidance

The attached guidelines have been developed regionally and are designed to supplement the national guidelines issued, including the most recent update on [Friday 14 January](#).

Our regional guidelines are designed to be more primary care focussed and include:

1. [A VCOD algorithm to aid decision making about preparing for VCOD, engaging staff and implementing changes to people's contracts](#)
2. [A draft policy that practices can adapt and adopt locally](#)
3. [VCOD FAQs for practice partners and staff](#)
4. [Equality impact assessment template](#)
5. [Risk assessment and business continuity template](#)
6. [Overview of legal considerations regarding VCOD](#)
7. [PHE guidance on conversations with staff re vaccinations](#)

REMINDER - Payments changes

A reminder that the changes set out in the LVS Update of 21 December 2021 are:

- An increase to the Item of Service (IoS) fee to £15 per COVID-19 vaccination administered on weekdays, and Saturdays from 1 December 2021 to 31 January 2022.
- An increase to the IoS fee to £20 per COVID-19 vaccination administered on a Sunday or Bank Holidays, and, in light of the further vaccination effort required in response to the Omicron variant, to £20 from 25 December 2021 to 3 January 2022 inclusive.
- An increase in the supplement for all doses to housebound patients from £20 to £30 until 31 December, backdated to 16 September 2021 for those already carried out (note that this is a change from the Operational Note, which stated this would be payable for 3rd primary and booster doses for housebound patients).
- A temporary supplement of £10 for all doses to severely immunosuppressed people from 1 December to 31 January 2022.

The changes are summarised in the table [here](#) .

Please be aware that these temporary IoS fee and supplementary payment increases will be paid via a separate and additional payment. These payments will be made once activity is declared. We plan to make the additional payments based on activity declared (that attracts the increased fee) at three points:

- i. activity declared up to and including the February declaration window;
- ii. any activity declared in the March declaration window; and
- iii. any activity declared in the May declaration window (but taking account of both April and May declarations).

These payments will be made separately from those payments for which you have made claims for the standard IoS fee of £12.58 or standard supplementary payment of £10.00. Such claims for standard fees and payments will be made in the normal way at the usual times.

And finally, it was communicated in November that the grace period for declaration of COVID-19 vaccination activity changed to six months, however on review it is to remain at three months.

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 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 Head of SEL CCG Covid Testing or the wider SEL Testing Team at selccg.covidtesting@nhs.net

GP Updates

New target date for the implementation of statutory arrangements for Integrated Care Systems

A new target date of 1 July 2022 has been set for the implementation of statutory arrangements for Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and the establishment of Integrated Care Boards (ICB), subject to the passage of the legislation through Parliament. This change is to allow sufficient time for the remaining parliamentary stages of the Health and Care Bill. Current statutory arrangements will remain in place until July, these include CCGs, which will continue to conduct business through existing governing bodies, and NHS England and Improvement retaining all direct commissioning responsibilities not already delegated to CCGs. The first quarter of 2022/23 will serve as a continued preparatory period.

Joint working arrangements have been in place at a system level in south east London for some time, and there has been significant progress already made in preparing for the establishment of a statutory ICS, including recruitment of our designate ICB Chair, Richard Douglas, and designate ICB Chief Executive, Andrew Bland. Systems have been asked to continue to prepare in line with guidance already set out by NHS England. NHS South East London CCG will adjust implementation plans for the closure of the

CCG and establishment of the ICB, and will continue to progress recruitment to other designate ICB leadership teams for formal transition from 1 July.

The continued development of our ICS remains a priority, to support joint working arrangements in managing the pandemic and accelerate local health and care service transformation to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities.

Ensuring the delivery of annual health checks for people with severe mental illnesses and people with a learning disability

Please see NHSE/ [letter](#) from 12 January regarding the delivery of annual health checks for people with SMI and/or a learning disability.

For action - recording patient ethnicity data

It is vital that ethnicity is categorised and recorded accurately at all points of contact within GP Practices and other health settings in order to ensure that the needs of all people are recognised and addressed. Please read the notice from the London Immunisation team in [full here](#).

Notification of call/recall of school-aged children for flu vaccination

A national call/recall for school aged children who have yet to receive their flu vaccine has gone out. Please see attached an up-to-date [list of contact details](#) for the school aged providers for you to signpost any parents/guardians should any of them try and contact the practices. The cohorts being contacted are Reception to Year 11 children and they are being signposted to contact 119.

This is for information for practices only, practices aren't expected to vaccinate these children UNLESS the child is in an at-risk group as they can receive their vaccination at either the practice or in a school clinic.

If you have any queries in relation to this communication, please contact us directly at england.londonimms@nhs.net

The national communication which went out is below for reference:

IMS Flu scheduling today has identified the school aged children eligible to receive a flu vaccination to whom a prompt to get this vaccine needs to be sent. We are currently processing the data and there will be an update with the number of SMS/emails/letters to be sent each day. Expected dispatch dates are as per the table. [A letter](#) will go if no valid mobile is available/SMS fails to deliver.

Description	Dispatch date	Received date
SMS Invitations to school aged children	17/01/2022	17/01/2022
	18/01/2022	18/01/2022
Email Invitations to school aged children	17/01/2022	17/01/2022
	18/01/2022	18/01/2022
Letter Invitations to school aged children	18/01/2022	20/01/2022
	19/01/2022	21/01/2022

National GP patient survey launches

The national GP patient survey launched last week and is open for three months. A random sample of patients will be invited to take part in the survey. Practices can promote the survey to try and achieve a higher response rate by:

- Displaying posters which are available in a range of languages here: [GP Patient Survey – Promote \(gp-patient.co.uk\)](#).
- Promote on your practice website
- Via social media – they survey team can provide you with images to use on Face Book and Twitter
- Discussion with your PPG

For further information and resources, such as posters and social media images, email england.insight-queries@nhs.net.

Quarterly reminder Audi-Systems user access controls

Reminder to GP practices and staff to ensure that following any changes to staff roles or when staff leave an organisation that access to the Care Identity Service (Smartcards) and other clinical IT systems are updated or revoked. Read more [here](#).

Compliance for NHS National data opt-out 31 March 2022

GP practices must comply with the national data opt-out policy by 31st March 2022 and confirmation of compliance is now mandatory on the Data Security and Protection Toolkit. Read more [here](#).

PCN Dashboard improvement work

As part of the commitment to improving user experience and accessibility, the PCN Dashboard has now been published directly onto NHS Applications. This significantly reduces the number of steps required to access the Dashboard. The NHS ViewPoint portal will be shut down shortly.

The PCN Dashboard can now be directly navigated through NHS Applications by using the following link: [A to Z Products | NHS England applications \(model.nhs.uk\)](#) or by clicking [here](#). Log in details should remain the same.

For issues or queries regarding functionality contact nhsi.analyticsproductsteam@nhs.net and for general queries contact england.gpcontracts@nhs.net.

Don't Miss Your Vaccine campaign shortlisted for two awards

Don't Miss Your Vaccine has been shortlisted for two competitive [PR Week Healthcare & PharmaComms Awards](#):

- Best healthcare/pharma crisis comms response
- Best use of content in a healthcare/pharma campaign

And [nhs vaccine facts.com](https://nhs.uk/vaccinefacts) is also nominated for:

- Best use of content in a healthcare/pharma campaign

Information from Acute Providers

From GSTT - Rejected referrals following appointments being booked

We have recently seen an increase in complaints regarding rejected referrals following appointments being booked on the system. Please ensure that you advise your patients that once an appointment is booked the referral will be assessed by a clinician in the hospital. Once assessed, the referral may be redirected or rejected and the clinical rationale for this will be fed back to you so that you can share this with your patient. The appointment will be cancelled once the referral is rejected.

It is also important that patients are informed at the time of booking their appointment that the appointment date and time may be changed if it is more clinically appropriate for the patient to be seen in a different clinic or by a different clinical team once the referral is assessed.

Temporary closure of SEL post Covid clinics at GSTT and KCH

In addition to the suspension of Post Covid Assessment Clinics at Kings College Hospital Trust, Guys & St Thomas' has also taken the decision to temporarily suspend the clinics at St Thomas'. Hence at this time, we are requesting that Practices do not send any referral requests to the Trust. Clinics are due to re-start at GSTT on the 25 January. Currently we do not have a start date for KCH clinics but expect that this will also be in the next few weeks. A further communication will be circulated when a date is confirmed.

In the interim if patients present with post covid symptoms, GPs are asked to follow the Primary Care assessment steps published in the Clinical Reference Guidance for London for the Post-COVID Syndrome Pathway and to use Post Covid Advice & Guidance for any pressing clinical questions.

GPs can also direct patients to <https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/> for general support and information.

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 \(19 January 2022\)](#)

Online seminars, webinars and e-learning

SEL CCG Covid-19 vaccination briefing

Tuesday 25 January - 15.00 to 16.00 on MS teams.

Hosted by Jessica Arnold, Director of Flu and Covid Vaccinations. The event is open to any faith leader or organisation, voluntary and community sector organisation and community champions. Please share the invitation with your network.

Register [here](#).

NHSE/I webinar – Making COVID Simple

Tuesday 25 January 17.00-18.30

Expert speakers will use clear and simple terms to explain some of the most complex issues about COVID and about the vaccinations that can protect us against it. Includes a Q&A.

Register [here](#).

Londonwide LMC mandatory vaccination seminar

Londonwide LMCs are offering a mandatory vaccinations seminar which will provide an overview to GPs and Practice Managers to understand who is likely to be covered by the new Regulations; and practical guidance in relation to the steps they should be taking now to manage risks arising, particularly in relation to those who may be reluctant or who may refuse to be vaccinated

Tuesday 25 January 12.30-13.30 OR Thursday 27 January 12.30-13.30.

These will be via Zoom. Please attend only one session.

Contact lead@lmc.org.uk to book your place.

Malnutrition and appropriate prescribing of oral nutritional supplements

Lunchtime seminar with GSTT nutrition and dietetic department.

Friday 28 January 2022 - 13.30 to 14.30

Book via the [link](#).

Kooth webinars

[Kooth](#) are delivering a number of webinars for GPs throughout 2022. Sign up [here](#).

The webinars will include an overview of all the features and support available on Kooth, how you can signpost young people to the service, and an opportunity to ask questions. Please note that the Zoom link for the webinar is on the sign-up form.

Diabetes UK webinar

[Diabetes and Planning a Pregnancy Tickets, Tue 25 Jan 2022 at 17:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Resources

Bowel Cancer UK colonoscopy campaign

Bowel Cancer UK are launching the [Colonoscopy Confidence campaign](#). Resources such as factsheets, leaflet, posters, a campaign film, films from people talking about their experience of having a colonoscopy, an animation and a range of social graphics are available at bowelcanceruk.org.uk/colonoscopyconfidence and to download [here](#).

Several of the assets are also available in Welsh, Urdu, Bengali, Arabic and Mandarin.

Films to support improving health outcomes for people with a learning disability

Bexley Mencap have recently coproduced the following short films:

[The Learning Disability Register](#): A short film about the Learning Disability Register. Liam explains what it is, and why it is important.

[A Date to Remember](#): Sarah gets ready for her health check. She reminds us not to be too busy to look after our health and not to be worried or frightened to go to our annual health check.

[The Community Pharmacy](#): Blanche visits her local pharmacy to find out what they do and why it should be the first place we go to get health support and advice if it is not a health emergency.

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