



**Issue 125/Wednesday 16 March 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.

## **GP dashboard update - at risk 5 - 11s and at risk 12 - 15s**

5 – 11s, and 12 – 15s 'at risk' are now available on the GP dashboard. You can find out more information about accessing the GP Dashboard here: [GP COVID-19 vaccine dashboard - NHS Digital](#). Please ensure you are checking this regularly and inviting patients to receive their vaccine as they become eligible.

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## **Simplifying evidence of eligibility of vaccinations for patients who are immunosuppressed and severely immunosuppressed**

Thank you for all your help in assisting people who are severely immunosuppressed or immunosuppressed to receive their Covid-19 vaccinations. We are writing to update you on the steps we are taking to help simplify how patients in these groups can show their eligibility for vaccinations.

### **Recap on clinical advice for Covid-19 vaccinations for those who are immunosuppressed:**

- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advise that people who were **severely immunosuppressed** either as a result of their disease or therapy at the time of their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, should receive a third dose as part of their primary course and a subsequent booster dose after a further 3 months.
- More recently, JCVI have advised that people who are immunosuppressed, which also includes the severely immunosuppressed as defined in Table 3 and 4 of [the Green Book Chapter 14a](#), should also receive a Spring booster.

### **Evidence to show eligibility:**

From 21 March, information for the public will be updated to help simplify the evidence for those who are immunosuppressed to show their eligibility when they arrive for their appointment:

- a specific communication from the GP or specialist stating their eligibility; or
- other forms of evidence to confirm their condition or medication including a hospital letter that describes the condition or the immunosuppressive medication that's been prescribed, a copy of a prescription, or a medication box with a patient's name and a date on it

#### **Supporting those without appropriate evidence:**

If the person attending their vaccination appointment is not able to provide suitable evidence to confirm their condition, a conversation with an appropriate clinician may be sufficient to confirm that the individual is eligible.

An appropriate clinician would include healthcare professionals who are familiar with medicines and treatments that cause immunosuppression and are able to understand a patient's medical history. If a clinical conversation is not possible, or it is not possible to confirm eligibility please advise the individual to contact their GP or specialist to confirm whether they are eligible for additional boosters ([Template letter](#) – in the event unable to vaccinate). As far as possible the approach taken should be to vaccinate, as the risk of an additional but unnecessary dose is low risk compared to leaving an immunosuppressed person under-vaccinated.

#### **Recording patient assessment**

The process for recording any patient assessment should be determined locally but could be within the notes section of the vaccination record or in the GP clinical system if GP records are available.

Paper records would only be acceptable as a business continuity solution. If a decision **not to** provide a third primary dose or a booster dose, this should also be recorded in the Point of Care (PoC) System.

### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS FOR VACCINATION SITES**

#### **Sites should ensure that staff at the vaccination site are advised of these updates:**

- To ensure no-one is refused access to a vaccination that they are eligible for, please make sure all staff are informed about the updated guidance on how immunosuppressed patient's show their eligibility and timings as described above and in the updated [Clinical Assessment Framework](#).
- Ensure that a site has a process in place to direct patients either directly to receive their vaccination or to a person who is able to have a clinical discussion if that is considered necessary. If a clinical discussion is required but there is not a suitable clinician available on site, please ask staff to arrange this to happen with the patient at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensure that your site has a process for recording any patient assessment; paper records are expected to only be used as a business continuity solution and information would need including into electronic records retrospectively.

If you have any questions, please contact [england.vaccinecentresgroupsupport@nhs.net](mailto:england.vaccinecentresgroupsupport@nhs.net) for Vaccination Centres Support or [england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net](mailto:england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net) for Local Vaccination Centres (Primary Care Networks and Pharmacies).

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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

### Flu stock orders for 2022/23 – supplier update

Further to the flu reimbursement [letter](#) published two weeks ago we would like to remind you that Suppliers advise that orders may still be amended.

For Sanofi, the position is that they are still able to take QIVr orders. Any adjustments for existing orders or switching from QIVe will be honoured up to 6 weeks after the letter (i.e. before 12/4/22).

For Seqirus, the position is that they are able to take additional orders for both aQIV and QIVc. Changes to QIVc orders will be accepted until 14th of April 2022 and Seqirus will send a communication to customers next week to inform them about the QIVc order amendment process.

Although healthy 50-64 year olds will not be eligible for a flu vaccination in the 2022/23 flu season, information received by NHSE/I London from Suppliers of QIVc QIVr and QIVe indicate orders for next season are low and that a number of practices have not ordered any QIVc. It is imperative that those under 65 at risk, including pregnant women, receive a flu jab as part of their care plan; therefore, before amending your orders, please note QIVc and QIVr are the recommended flu vaccines and the uptake targets for these cohorts was 75% for the 2021/22 flu season.

You should ensure you have sufficient stock of appropriate vaccines for each cohort to vaccinate higher number of patients in the 2022/23 flu season. Should you have any

queries, please contact your supplier customer services who will be happy to advise further.

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## **GP registration of Crown Servants and their dependants returning from overseas postings – support for returners from Ukraine**

Please find attached quick-read guidance [here](#).

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## **Asylum seekers and refugees in SEL**

Please see attached [message](#) from GP representatives for SEL CCG Asylum Seekers and Refugees Programme Board, in which they outline SEL CCG plans for this patient group.

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## **Innovation Accelerator Fund launched**

The **Innovation Accelerator Fund (IAF)**, a new initiative to support innovation in pathology, scientific research and development, is making up to half a million pounds available to anyone working within the South East London pathology partnership.

The IAF is available through SYNLAB UK & Ireland and Viapath and replaces Viapath's Innovation Fund. Viapath employees and South East London pathology partnership colleagues, including GP practices, have the opportunity to apply for up to £500,000, depending on the scope and scale of the proposed project. Read more [here](#).

The latest e-brief is [here](#).

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## **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) resilience request**

UK organisations are being urged to [bolster their cyber security resilience](#) in response to the malicious cyber incidents in and around Ukraine.

[The NCSC has issued guidance for organisations to take during periods when the cyber threat is heightened.](#)

In the light of heightened tensions and the NCSC guidance, all primary care contractors must maintain a business continuity plan which should include loss of access to relevant IT services, including telephony, to maintain the delivery of essential services. We ask all contractors to review and update these, if they have not done so in the last 12 months, to reflect the increased reliance on digital technology

For GP contractors these arrangements should follow the significant guidance on cyber security measures and Business Continuity included in the GP IT Operating Model. GPs need to work with CCGs and their GP IT delivery partner(s) to actively manage the removal, replacement or mitigation of any unsupported systems in the managed estate.

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## **Oxcare – Oxleas' new online patient record system**

Oxcare officially launched on 31 January. Watch the live-streamed launch event [here](#).

Oxleas' services are now utilising Oxcare to streamline contact with their patients and service users and promote wellbeing and self-management. Rollout will continue across the Trust throughout 2022.

Oxcare users have the opportunity to invite anybody to be part of their community and you may find they are interested in including primary care professionals. If you would like further information about the functionality and benefits offered by Oxcare, please contact the project team at [oxl-tr.oxcare@nhs.net](mailto:oxl-tr.oxcare@nhs.net)

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## **New SEL guidance for management of gout in primary care**

The guidance can be accessed [here](#).

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## **1 million south east Londoners boost their immunity against COVID-19**

Last week, in south east London we hit the milestone of delivering a COVID-19 booster jab to our millionth resident. All of this has all been made possible by working in partnership with other organisations locally, including local authorities, and with the ongoing efforts of our staff and volunteers. Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to make this vital work possible. As part of the celebration, we are thanking staff, volunteers, partners and community groups who have been crucial in its success; and we will encourage those who have not yet received their first vaccine to come forward and get it.

We'd love for you to help us celebrate this booster milestone in south east London. To help you do this, please [download the toolkit](#). You can also [retweet us](#) and link to our news article at: <https://selondonccg.nhs.uk/1millionboosters>.

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## **From the Quality Team - Quality Alerts**

Thank you to all those who have submitted QAs, this really does help inform our service to make positive system developments which in turn improves care and health outcomes for local people. Please be reminded that when completing QAs to include information on whether actual patient harm occurred, this will help us manage the alert and the grading process more effectively. As SEL CCG is not authorised to hold patient identifiable information, please ensure that patients' personal details are not included or are anonymised. See number of QAs raised since the launch of Datix [here](#).

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## **Reminder - Advice and Guidance survey**

Advice and Guidance (A&G) allows a General Practitioner to seek advice and/or guidance from a specialist. In south east London, A&G is currently available via Consultant Connect and the NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS). As part of the evaluation of these services, feedback is being sought from GPs via this [short survey](#). Your responses are anonymous unless you choose to provide your contact details.

If you have any queries, please contact [Roger.Hendicott@selondonccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Roger.Hendicott@selondonccg.nhs.uk)

Please complete the survey by 25 March 2022.

## **Cancer updates**

### **New Position Statement on PSA testing in SE London**

Please see the [attached position statement](#) dated 09 March 2022 from SE London Cancer Alliance (SELCA)

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## 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 16 March 2022.](#)

## Information from Acute Providers

### Kings College Hospital - Dedicated Emergency Department Friends and Family line

KCH have set up a new dedicated friends and family line for the Emergency Department at the Denmark Hill site – telephone number 020 3299 7919.

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### From KCH – Long COVID referrals

The details required for a CXR prior to referral to long COVID clinic, or for a query of long COVID must contain at least the following:

- Respiratory related symptoms detailed (non-respiratory symptoms do not justify a CXR)
- How long after the patient had COVID that they have been experiencing these symptoms (less than 4 weeks is not long COVID and will be rejected)
- If the referral is for respiratory long COVID

## Seminars, events, webinars and e-learning

### Invitation to help Guy's and St Thomas' and Kings College Hospital improve Long Covid services

Workshop looking at people accessing/ not accessing Long Covid services. Please see attached [agenda](#) and more information, including how to book a place, [here](#).

Tuesday 19 April – 11.30 to 15.00

Venue - 56 Tabard St, London SW1 4LG

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### Londonwide Enterprise Limited webinar - What the NHS Pension scheme changes mean to you

This short webinar will explain how the 2015 NHS pension scheme works, how the new 2015 pension scheme could affect you and what considerations you now need to make for retirement. Includes Q&A.

Tuesday 29 March 2022 – 12.30 to 13.30.

Free to practices from Londonwide area. Please email [lead@lmc.org.uk](mailto:lead@lmc.org.uk) to book a place.

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### SELDOC free workshop for clinicians



Tuesday 22 March - 19.00 to 21.00 – Human Factors in Error

Held via Zoom. More information and joining details [here](#).

## Resources

### Public facing guidance for spring booster

People aged 75 years and older, residents in care homes for older people, and those aged 12 years and over with a weakened immune system will be offered a spring booster of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. Public facing guidance published 16 March and a leaflet to download is available [here](#).

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### Additional new coronavirus resources available for download including:

**For parents** - [Covid-19 Guide for Parents of 5-11 year olds](#)

[Long Term Strategy](#) resources for use on social media

[Community Testing](#) resources including social animations, key behaviour flyers and social media assets

[Long Term Strategy BSL Video](#) (Living with Covid)

[Pharmacy Out of Stock and Free Tests Ending](#) social media resources

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### 5-11 vaccination communications toolkit

This is now available [here](#) and includes a useful public facing script, links to other relevant NHS resources, and social media content.

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### New COVID-19 vaccine ‘confident conversations’ resources for workforce

UKHSA have produced a range of new resources to help the health and care workforce have confident conversations with staff about the COVID-19 vaccine. These new resources have been produced to support conversations with those who are deaf and hard of hearing, those with learning disabilities and physical disabilities, as well as those from ‘white other’ populations. These new guides and other new assets can be found here on the [workforce vaccinations page](#) on FutureNHS.

## Recruitment

### New post reminder: Clinical Effectiveness Southeast London (CESEL) Facilitators

Vacancy link: <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/917092047> (note this is a corrected link from the original that was published).

Clinical Effectiveness South-east London (CESEL) are seeking to recruit Facilitators to support the delivery of the clinical effectiveness programme, which will embed improvement resources and methodologies across general practice teams, to help provide high quality best-practice care. The post/s are offered on a fixed-term or secondment basis, initially until 31 March 2023. Part-time and full-time applicants welcome. The team are especially keen to hear from staff who currently work in a primary care setting or provide support to general practice teams in south-east London.

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