



Issue 123/Wednesday 2 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.

Next steps for the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Programme planning and delivery

NHSE/I [letter](#) and [planning perimeters](#) published 23 February outlining the current priorities for the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 2022/23, based on the central role of vaccination to the Government's strategy for [Living with Covid-19](#), the latest Government advice to deliver a spring dose for those most at risk (see below), and to offer vaccination to 5-11 year olds.

The Living with Covid white paper update is [here](#).

JCVI advises a spring COVID-19 vaccine dose for the most vulnerable

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised an additional spring booster dose for the most vulnerable individuals in the population. To maintain high levels of protection for the most vulnerable individuals in the population, an extra spring dose is advised around 6 months after the last vaccine dose for:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in in the COVID 19 healthcare guidance Green Book

The types of vaccine offered for the spring dose will be as follows:

- for eligible adults aged 18 years and over, 50mcg Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine or 30mcg Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine
- for eligible persons aged 12 to 18 years, 30 mcg Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine

A further booster in the autumn of 2022 is likely to be advised for people who are at higher risk of severe COVID-19. The JCVI will continue its rolling review of the vaccination programme and the epidemiological situation, particularly in relation to the timing and value of doses for less vulnerable older adults and those in clinical risk groups ahead of autumn 2022. Read the full article [here](#).

GP COVID vaccination dashboard

NHS Digital has developed the [GP COVID Vaccination dashboard](#) to enable general practices and PCN-led local vaccination services to view the uptake of the COVID vaccination amongst their registered patients. As well as their own GP Practice systems, GP practices should use the GP Covid-19 Vaccine Dashboard to identify immunosuppressed people due their boosters (fourth dose). If practices have not accessed the dashboard since the eligibility for booster doses was included on the 08 December 2021, please use the link [GP COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

Support and resources

To support clinicians in identifying and inviting immunosuppressed patients, NHS England and NHS Improvement has provided template invitation letters available [Template Letters - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#).

Practices that require support to access the dashboard and have any queries and/or need additional support, please contact the NHS Digital national service desk on ssd.nationalservicedesk@nhs.net or 0300 303 5035.

Revoking vaccination as a condition of deployment across all health and social care: consultation response

Please note that the outcome of the government consultation to revoke the vaccination as a condition of deployment regulations has been published [today](#).

In short, and as referenced on the government website:

In light of the latest scientific evidence and having considered the views received as part of the consultation as well as an analysis of equalities impacts, the government will bring forward regulations to revoke vaccination as a condition of deployment.

The regulations will revoke the requirements that CQC registered persons only permit those who are vaccinated against COVID-19, unless otherwise exempt, to be deployed for the provision of a CQC-regulated activity in health and/or social care, and to enter CQC registered care home premises.

Government has advised that it fully recognises the calls for clarity and for quick revocation of the regulations and as such the regulations revoking vaccination as a condition of deployment will be made following the publication of the consultation response. The regulations will come into force on **15 March** in order to provide certainty for employers, their staff, patients and people who receive care or support ahead of 1 April when regulations extending the requirement to health and wider social care were due to come into force.

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 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

General Practice contractual changes 2022/23

Please read the NHSE/I letter from 1 March which sets out changes to the GP contract arrangement for 2022/23 in full [here](#).

Change to HPV schedule for eligible adolescents and adults starting the course after the age of 15

From 1 April 2022 the HPV vaccination programme is moving from a 3 dose to 2 dose schedule for eligible adolescents and adults starting the course after they turn 15 years old, including men who have sex with men. This is with the exception of individuals known to be HIV infected or immunocompromised, who should continue to be offered the 3-dose schedule. The interval between doses for the 2-dose schedule should be 6-

24 months after the first dose. The bipartite letter, found [here](#) provides further information and guidance. A revised Green Book chapter and PGD will also be published in due course to support this change.

If you have any queries, please contact england.londonimms@nhs.net

Rotavirus vaccine and Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) newborn screening evaluation

Please find [important information on the SCID screening and Rotavirus vaccine](#). This information applies to babies born on or after 1 September 2021 who attend for their 8-week appointment.

Screening for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) is being offered in some parts of England as part of a pilot. GSTT is one of the pilot sites. This means that infants born at GSTT will be tested. Please read the notice in full [here](#).

Overseas Vaccine Record Validation Service: updates to Service

The Overseas Vaccine Validation Record Service (OVVRS) is an administrative service offered to the public at designated vaccination centre (VC) or Hospital Hub Plus site (HH+) in England. The service is not offered in all vaccination centres or in standard Hospital Hubs (as these Hubs are not open to the public).

The service validates vaccination records from overseas (i.e. outside of England), presented by the individual eligible to use the service. Patients can book the service using the following [link](#). There are currently three sites in SEL offering this service: University Hospital Lewisham, Bromley Civic Centre, and King's College Hospital. Please note the service can only be accessed by booking through the NBS.

Medication updates

Abbott recalls two infant formula powders because of the possible presence of Salmonella

Abbott is recalling batches of Elecare Similac and Alimentum Similac infant formula powders because of the possible presence of salmonella.

Practices should contact all patients who have been issued a prescription for the infant powders and share the impacted batch codes immediately.

Please see [link](#) to Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the prescribing [recommendations](#) from London Procurement Partnership for further information.

If any additional support is required, please contact the paediatric dietician team via e-mail gst-tr.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net

Discontinuation of 2.5mg rectal Diazepam

In October 2021, a CAS [alert](#) was raised informing of the discontinuation of Diazepam RecTubes® 2.5ml Rectal solution.

Diazepam RecTubes® 2.5mg are mainly used in the management of status epilepticus and convulsions in neonates (off-label) to deliver doses of 1.25mg- 2.5mg doses and repeated if required.

Available stock has now been exhausted, however there are no supply concerns with the 5mg or 10mg rectal solutions.

In light of discontinuation of the 2.5mg strength of rectal diazepam the NPPG have issued the following position [statement](#)

Action: Clinicians across healthcare settings should review all patients prescribed Diazepam RecTubes® 2.5mg and relevant local guidelines/ protocols which recommend the use of Diazepam RecTubes® 2.5mg to consider alternative preparations where appropriate

Information from the London Respiratory Clinical Network

The London Respiratory Clinical Network has produced two documents to support patient consultations around [shared decision making around inhaler choice](#) and maintaining [lung health](#). These may be helpful for healthcare professionals when undertaking clinical reviews of patients with COPD, asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Community pharmacy survey

Kingston University would like community pharmacists to participate in a project relating to their response to the Covid pandemic. All information submitted is treated confidentially.

Any queries can be sent to Lydia Daniel Seyoum at k1703431@kingston.ac.uk. The questionnaire can be accessed here: [Pharmacy's response to COVID-19 in primary care settings survey \(office.com\)](#) and the participant information sheet is attached [here](#).

Urgent Care Plan Programme: February Transition Briefing

Coordinate My Care is being replaced in London by the new Urgent Care Plan (UCP).

Please read the [February Transition Briefing](#) in full. This includes **actions** on how to prepare for the UCP.

London Complex Mesh Centre now accepting GP referrals

The [London Complex Mesh Centre](#) (UCLH) is now accepting GP as well as tertiary referrals. The referral form is [here](#). This designated, specialist centre supports women from London and the South East experiencing complications after **pelvic mesh** insertion for continence and prolapse, including surgical mesh removal. An MDT – including surgeons, physicians, imaging specialists, nurses, pain specialists, physiotherapists, and clinical psychologists – offers holistic treatment.

eRS search:

- Specialty – Gynaecology
- Clinic Type – Not otherwise specified
- Organisation/Location – University College Hospital Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Wing
- Service Name - London Complex Mesh Centre - Gynaecology - UCLH - RR

If you have any questions, please email uclh.enquiries.uclh.lcmc@nhs.net

Change of Address – South London Health Protection Team

As of Monday 28 February 2022, the South London Health Protection Team has moved from its current Wellington House premises. The new address is:

Area 3A
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HX

We strongly encourage correspondence to continue via email where possible.

Notifications of infectious disease and other queries should be sent to phe.SLHPT@nhs.net from your NHS.net address as this is secure and more efficient than sending by post. If you have any queries, please do contact phe.SLHPT@nhs.net.

NHS launches online platform to empower patients as they wait for care

Millions of patients on the waiting list for NHS care will be able to access support and check wait times at their fingertips thanks to a new online platform launched last week. Built in conjunction with patient groups, My Planned Care is one of the latest measures in a major package of moves by the NHS to tackle the Covid backlog. Read the full article [here](#).

HIN CVD Prevention Fellowship

The Health Innovation Network (HIN) has launched a new CVD Prevention Fellowship aimed at nurses, GPs and pharmacists working in primary care in south London who are keen to develop their CVD prevention skills and knowledge. The free programme will run between April and October and will help clinicians to champion CVD prevention in their practice or local area. **Applications are now open with a deadline of 18 March 2022 to submit expressions of interest.** Read more details [here](#).

Reminder - Advice and Guidance (A&G) survey

A&G allows a GP 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). Feedback is being sought from GPs via this [short survey](#) by 25 March. If you have any queries, please contact Roger.Hendicott@selondonccg.nhs.uk

Reminder - Community Adult Audiology Services - Scrivens Hearing Care and Hearbase Limited

Hearbase Limited and Scrivens Hearing Care will cease to provide Community Adult Audiology services across south east London. Please read more [here](#).

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 16 February 2022.](#)

Information from Acute Providers

Changes to SEL rheumatology eRS and referral guidance

From the beginning of April 2022, new [referral guidance](#) will be in place for rheumatology referrals in the South East London region, covering the following trusts – Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, and King’s College London NHS Foundation Trust. In keeping with the new British Society for Rheumatology referral guidance, it provides information on symptoms and signs that might suggest an underlying rheumatological diagnosis and is helpful to include in referrals. It also provides information on when Advice and Guidance might be a more appropriate means to seek a rheumatology opinion. They have also produced [guidance](#) to aid with the management of Fibromyalgia in the community.

There is a webinar planned, and further details on how to join will be made available soon.

Reminder - New single point of access and long COVID pathway

GSTT therapy and integrated local services have been working with KCH, SLAM and primary care colleagues in Southwark and Lambeth to design a pathway for patients with long COVID. To ensure we are able to hear and address patients’ varied needs and direct them to the most appropriate service we are implementing a single point of access for all Long Covid referrals. This is hosted by GSTT and will be up and running by March.

All referrals will be reviewed to either be assessed over the phone by the GSTT therapies team or seen in a face-to-face MDT assessment clinic at GSTT or KCH. This enables patients who are appropriate to discuss their problems over the phone and, depending on their need, be quickly directed to our Long COVID supported self-management, group therapy or 1-1 therapies.

More complex patients will be seen in face-to-face MDT assessment clinics at GSTT or KCH and reviewed to understand their multi-dimensional needs and provide coordination of specialist support within both hospitals.

Referral enquires (general): TherapiesReferralManagement@gstt.nhs.uk

Advice contact details / Clinical enquires: gst-tr.postcovidmdtassessment@nhs.net

Areas the service covers:

- Telephone MDT assessment: Southwark and Lambeth only
 - Face to face MDT assessment clinic: South East London
-

GSTT / SELDOC contract

SELDOC Healthcare and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust are delighted to be working together, under a new contract, to deliver inpatient and community services in Lambeth and Southwark. This includes GP input to the multi-disciplinary @home service across south London, and providing cars and drivers for the Pal@home overnight service for patients requiring palliative care.

These services provide expert care for people in their own homes. Read in full [here](#).

Online seminars, webinars and e-learning

Data Protection Officer, Data Security and Protection Toolkit session

The next Data Protection Officer, Data Security and Protection Toolkit session will take place on:

- Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 12:30pm (via Teams)

If you would like to attend the event, please contact Alison.Pryor@nhs.net

SEL CCG webinar for pregnancy and maternity

Webinar with clinicians from SE London to tackle vaccine hesitancy aimed at pregnant women, their partners, and families as well as the wider public who are thinking about getting pregnant. Please share with your networks and use the poster [here](#).

- Thursday 24 March 17.00 to 18.00. Register via [Eventbrite](#).

KCH webinar - learning event on rheumatology outcomes.

- Tuesday 8 March 2022 - 13:00 to 14:00 via MS Teams

Register [here](#).

Kings Health Partners webinars

General Paediatric GP Conference - Dr Diana Stan, Paediatric Consultant at King's College Hospital chairs.

- Tuesday 15 March - 13.45 to 17.20 More information and register [here](#).

Primary care webinar - how to get the best possible postoperative outcomes for your older multimorbid or frail patients

- Wednesday 30 March – 13.00 to 14.00. More information and register [here](#).

Maternal Medicine course for Primary Care – includes hypertension, diabetes, epilepsy and asthma during pregnancy.

- Wednesday 11 May – 13.00 to 17.00. More information and register [here](#).

Management of menopause - virtual seminar for primary care

Guy's and St Thomas are hosting this interactive seminar with a practical overview of Menopause cases in primary care. Includes Q&A. This talk counts for one CPD point and a certificate of attendance will be sent to you.

- Friday 11 March 2021 - 13:30 to 14.30. Book via [Eventbrite](#).

Londonwide LMCs GP Professional Support Network Wellbeing Webinars

Londonwide LMCs GP Professional Support Network ([GPPSN](#)) is offering an integrated set of six wellbeing webinars. Each webinar can also be attended as a stand-alone event. For more information please visit londonwide.onpld.com. Delegates can book a place by sending an email to lead@lmc.org.uk.

- Sleep with serenity - 16 March 2022 at 19.30
- Burnout/ Compassion Fatigue - 27 April 2022 at 19.30
- Meaning, values and purpose - 11 May 2022 at 19.30
- Healthy habits and motivation - 25 May 2022 at 19.30
- Emotional regulation - 08 June 2022 at 19.30
- Positive thinking and toxic positivity - 22 June 2022 at 19.30

Resources

NHS London Violence Reduction Programme publications

[Social Prescribing Pathway Supporting Children and Young People Affected by Violence](#)

[In-Hospital Violence Reduction Services: A Guide to Effective Implementation](#)

Help Us Help You – cervical screening campaign

On 14 February the DHSC together with NHSE/I launched a cervical screening campaign which encourages those eligible for screening to respond to their cervical screening invitation letters and book an appointment at their GP practice if they missed their last one. Please find a link to assets for both the national and [London campaign](#) on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#). This includes campaign videos, social animations, posters, easy reads, etc.

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