



Issue 124/Wednesday 9 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.

Operationalising updated JCVI advice - Spring boosters and 5-11 year old vaccination

This [note](#) sets out the operational actions systems must now take to deliver Spring boosters from 21 March 2022 and 5-11-year-old vaccination from 4 April 2022. This note should be read alongside our 5-11 vaccination [letter](#) from 18 February and [planning letter](#) from 23 February.

Revocation of vaccination as a condition of deployment

The government has announced that it will bring forward the regulations to revoke vaccination as a condition of deployment following its consultation, which closed on 16 February 2022. The revocation of the regulations will come into force on 15 March. The full consultation document is available [here](#).

Changes to death certification processes after Coronavirus Act expires on 25 March 2022

Please find attached [a document](#) outlining changes to the death certification processes and cremation form that will come into force when the Coronavirus Act expires on 25 March. The document also provides information on the aspects around death certification introduced by the act that are now being retained on a permanent basis. These changes will affect all doctors who could be involved in certifying a death.

To summarise:

The following provisions are continuing after 24 March 2022:

- The period before death within which a doctor completing a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) must have seen a deceased patient will remain 28 days (prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the limit was 14 days).

- It will still be acceptable for medical practitioners to send MCCDs to registrars electronically.
- The government's intention is that the form Cremation 5 will not be re-introduced after the Coronavirus Act expires.

The following emergency provisions are changing with the expiry of the Coronavirus Act on 25 March 2022:

- The provision temporarily allowing any medical practitioner to complete the MCCD, introduced as a temporary measure by the Coronavirus Act, will be discontinued.
- Informants will have to register deaths in person, not remotely.

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

Flu letter- reimbursable vaccines and eligible cohorts

Please see [letter](#) relating to the 2022/23 flu season. The letter gives details of vaccines that will be reimbursed together with information on the cohorts. For any queries please contact england.londonimms@nhs.net

Request for information on Head and Neck Cancer as part of DOH call for evidence to underpin the UK's 10-year Cancer strategy

We would like to ask for your help and input (5 minutes of your time) on the Department for Health's call for evidence that will underpin the **UK's 10 year Cancer strategy**. We want to make sure that Head and Neck Cancer is considered as part of this strategy and that we provide a well considered response.

We will be putting together a response as part of the newly formed Head and Neck Cancer Coalition that will include patient and caregiver inputs and we would also like to include a collective response on behalf of all practitioners involved in the diagnosis, treatment and post treatment support of Head and Neck Cancers. To help us do this we would be grateful if you could take no more than 5 mins to answer these questions (maximum 500 words per answer please);

What is your role as a health care professional?	
What is YOUR awareness of Head and Neck Cancers? (High/Medium/Low)	
What do you think could be done to improve awareness of Head and Neck Cancer generally?	
As a health care professional what one thing would help accelerate diagnostics for H&N patients with symptoms of H&N Cancer?	
In your H&N Cancer network, what one thing would you suggest to shorten the time between diagnosis and starting treatment?	
If you could change one thing in your H&N Cancer network to improve outcomes for patients what would that be?	

If you could email your replies to ceo@oraclecancertrust.org by Wednesday, March 16th we would be most grateful. We will send you a copy of our submission.

PLEASE FORWARD ON AS WELL TO OTHERS IN YOUR NETWORK SO WE GET AS MANY RESPONSES AS POSSIBLE.

If you have already responded yourself, please do send us your response and we can reiterate it in our collective response.

Thank you for all the work and support that you give to patients with Head and Neck Cancer.

Patients can now self-refer to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit at Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

Patients in Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley can now self-refer to the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) at University Hospital Lewisham and Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich.

The EPAU is for women who are encountering problems such as bleeding or abdominal pain in the first 16 weeks of pregnancy.

In order to self-refer, women will need to fill in the EPAU referral form, which can be found on the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust website using the following link: <https://www.lewishamandgreenwich.nhs.uk/epau-self-referral>

Once the self-referral form is received by the EPAU, a telephone triage review will be conducted by one of the early pregnancy nurses.

Women are often contacted on the same day, or the next working day if the referral is received after 3pm. Please note that the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit is open Monday to Friday only and is closed on Bank Holidays. If the form is submitted late Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday, women will be contacted on Monday.

Women are advised to attend the Emergency Department if they are experiencing heavy bleeding and/or severe pain, or feeling dizzy and unwell.

Clinicians can still refer to the EPAU using the existing pathway.

Updated PGDs for Typhoid, Hep A Typhoid, MMR, PCV and PCV Risk Groups

NHS England and NHS Improvement London Region has published updated PGDs on its website. This can be accessed at <http://www.england.nhs.uk/london/immunis-team/>

The updated PGDs are:

- NHSE&I UKHSA Typhoid PGD v03.00
- NHSE&I UKHSA Hep A Typhoid PGD v03.00
- NHSE&I UKHSA MMR PGD v04.00
- NHSE&I UKHSA PCV PGD v04.00
- NHSE&I UKHSA PCV Risk Groups PGD v05.00

Practices should ensure that any registered healthcare professional who is due to administer vaccinations under these PGDs should be made aware of the updated versions. If you have any queries, please contact the London Immunisations team via england.londonimms@nhs.net.

Kooth launch free online tool to help south east London university students access mental health services

The online tool is supported by UCAS and Universities UK and signposts students to free and confidential support, 24/7, 365 days a year. [Read more here.](#)

Professional Record Standards Body launches survey on draft shared decision making information standard

The results will help inform the final information standard which will support the process of shared decision making by capturing the discussion between person and clinician, and making this information digitally shareable between different care settings, supporting safer, personalised care. The survey can be accessed [here.](#)

Update - SEL working with people and communities brief and invite to quote

An update on the opportunity to submit an expression of interest to South East London Integrated Care System (ICS) to undertake community engagement, to support the development of our working with people and communities' strategy:

- An [updated version of the invitation to quote](#), which now includes:
 - Specific guidance around the structure and content of the feedback report
 - Refreshed timeline – extending the time available for engagement to be undertaken. All engagement activities are to be completed, and feedback reports submitted, by noon on Friday, 13 May 2022
- [Q&A](#) from the information session held on Monday which some of you may have attended

The closing date for receipt of bids is **5pm on Thursday 10 March**. Please submit completed bids (using the form within the invitation to quote) to selccg.icsoffice@nhs.net.

Paediatric respiratory surge response questionnaire – capturing lessons learnt

This questionnaire aims to gather feedback in relation to the response that was put in place to prepare for and manage the surge in paediatric response in 2021/22. It can be accessed [here](#). Please respond by Friday 18 March 2022.

Assessment of confidence in managing common rheumatological conditions – GP survey

This survey is England-wide. Please take a couple of minutes to complete it online [here](#).

Long Covid educational survey

Dr Jennifer Liddington has been appointed as a Long Covid Champion Educator for SE London. SEL Training Hub is planning to provide educational events on this subject and would welcome your feedback. Please complete [this short survey](#).

National PPE Acute and Primary Care Customer Insight Newsletter - February 2022

[National PPE Acute and Primary Customer Insight newsletter – February 2022](#).

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

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.

Long COVID pathway: single point of access

Guy's and St Thomas', King's college Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts, with primary care colleagues in Southwark and Lambeth have developed a South East London pathway for patients with long COVID. To ensure they are able to hear and address patients' varied needs and direct them to the most appropriate service, they are implementing a single point of access for all long COVID referrals. This service, hosted by Guy's and St Thomas', is now operative.

All referrals will be reviewed to either be assessed over the phone by Guy's and St Thomas' therapies team or seen in a face-to-face multi-disciplinary team (MDT) assessment clinic at Guy's and St Thomas' or King's College Hospital. This pathway enables patients to discuss their problems over the phone and, depending on their needs, 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 Guy's and St Thomas' or King's College Hospital, and reviewed to understand their multi-dimensional needs with the coordination of specialist support from both hospitals.

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

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

Seminars, events, webinars and e-learning

Fibromyalgia for primary care clinicians

Guy's and St Thomas' rheumatology department are running an interactive web seminar about the diagnosis and management of fibromyalgia including referral guidance. This talk counts for one CPD point and a certificate of attendance will be sent to you.

Friday 25 March – 13.30 to 14.30. Join via Eventbrite [here](#).

World Asthma Day - morning of online learning

A morning of learning on children and young people's asthma in advance of World Asthma Day (Tuesday 3 May). The morning will comprise of 3 hour-long sessions:

9.30 - Introducing a new approach to post asthma attack discharge: phasing out salbutamol weaning plan

10.30 - Learning from case studies across the asthma pathway

11.30 - A practical guide to setting up Asthma Friendly Schools in your area

You can dial in for individual sessions as well as the whole morning. Please register at [World Asthma Day 2022: a morning of learning about CYP asthma \(england.nhs.uk\)](#) to receive the joining link and any updates to the agenda.

Tavistock and Portman event: Gender Identity Clinic information session for GPs

The London-based Gender Identity Clinic is inviting GPs, nurses and healthcare professionals to a free Gender Identity Information Session:

Monday 4 April at 18.30 - 21.30pm via Zoom. Book via [Eventbrite](#).

CQC event - Health and care: learning from the past, building for the future

In person event at the Royal College of Physicians on Tuesday 15 March at 17.30.

An evening of discussion, as well as a chance to bid farewell to Ted Baker (Chief Inspector of Hospitals) and Peter Wyman (CQC Board Chair) before they depart.

Please register via the [link](#).

Guy's and St Thomas' seminar - Management of common liver conditions

A one-hour interactive seminar where you will learn how to improve the diagnosis, patient referrals and the management of liver conditions in primary care. The talk will cover abnormal LFTs. Questions will be taken at the end of the talk.

Friday 18 March 2021 - 13:30 to 14.30. Book via the [link](#).

Resources

Students work with local NHS to produce animation to improve breast cancer awareness.

To highlight the importance of breast screening, SEL CCG enlisted the help of London College of Communication students who produced four short, animated films inspired by testimonials from black women who have been previously treated for breast cancer. Read more and watch the animations [here](#).

#DontMissYourVaccine updated toolkit for 12-17 year olds

#DontMissYourVaccine is a behaviourally-informed campaign to encourage as many eligible young people across South East London to access the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Please share our campaign and associated assets to help us reach as many people as we can. [The toolkit](#) includes social media messaging, campaign film, key messages and graphics. There is also a version of the [toolkit for educational settings](#).

Both versions of these now include simple messaging on covid passes for 12-15 year olds.

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