



**Issue 128/ Thursday 07 April 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.

## **New guidance - Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test result**

Guidance published 1 April 2022 is available at [here](#).

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## **Changes to coronavirus testing for accessing COVID 19 treatments for non-hospitalised patients**

The Government has announced changes to its policy on coronavirus testing in England. Patients eligible for COVID-19 treatments through a COVID Medicines Delivery Unit (CMDU) will now need to use a LFT, which will be supplied to them by UKHSA, for use at home if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Please read the letter from 31 March [here](#).

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## **COVID-19 testing and reporting**

### **Key Messages: Primary Care Focus**

["Living with COVID19"](#) Guidance (Letter 30 March 2022) sets out the approach to delivering the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) advice in relation to staff and patient testing. Although the public will not be offered COVID-19 tests routinely if symptomatic, there may be some instances where a clinician will want to offer a COVID-19 test as part of a diagnostic pathway.

All incident/outbreak testing should be using PCRs and advised by a local IPC team or following public health advice.

## **Patients**

Planned elective admissions should be tested using LFDs, in advance of admission with tests via the gov.uk portal where they will be asked to confirm that they have a planned upcoming admission. Day cases who are fully vaccinated do not need to test.

Community or primary care patients requiring a test by a clinician to support clinical decisions during their care and treatment pathway should be offered a lateral flow device (LFD) test as part of their usual diagnostic pathway. Patients should be directed to the gov.uk website to order their tests, where they will be asked to confirm that their clinician has requested this and report via the same portal.

Patients eligible for COVID-19 treatments through a COVID Medicines Delivery Unit (CMDU) (nMAB/Antiviral treatments) will now need to use an LFD Test, which will be supplied to them by UKHSA, for use at home if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

A small proportion of patients testing positive who haven't been automatically contacted by a CMDU for assessment and treatment may need to be referred by GP practices and 111.

You can refer potentially eligible patients if they have tested positive via a PCR test or any LFD test. You can refer patients to the local CMDU using the electronic Referral Service (eRS) or the locally agreed alternative if applicable.

NOTE: One of the treatment options – nirmatrelvir+ritonavir (Paxlovid) – has multiple potential drug interactions so inclusion of the patient's medications in the referral is vital.

## **Staff**

Asymptomatic NHS patient facing staff should continue to test twice weekly, with kits via gov.uk portal. All Symptomatic NHS staff should test themselves using LFDs. Staff who test positive should continue to follow the current return to work guidance – Testing neg x 2 occasions (24 hours apart) post 5 days.

Staff who are household contacts of a positive COVID-19 case and are asymptomatic can return to work but continue to test twice weekly. They will no longer be required to have a PCR test to return to work but should discuss working arrangements with their line manager as it can take up to 10 days for your infection to develop, during which it is possible to pass on COVID-19 to others, even if you have no symptoms.

Staff should undertake COVID-19 tests on an ad hoc basis if instructed by their employer or director of public health in specific circumstances. Staff will be notified via their line management structure if this applies to them.

## **ASC and Supportive Living and Care Homes:**

Most visitors will no longer be required to take a test. Only visitors providing personal care should test before visiting but not more than twice a week. NHS staff in care homes should provide evidence of a negative testing within last 72 hours. Other visiting professionals should be tested with tests provided by the care home if they are providing personal care as per the guidance for visitors providing personal care.

Residents admitted from the community, or another care setting should take a PCR test within 72 hours before they are admitted or an LFD if covid positive within the last 90 days. These tests should be provided by the care home.

The Government will continue to provide free symptomatic testing for individuals who live or work in high-risk closed settings, for example in some NHS, Social Care, care homes, supportive living and Prisons (and other Places of Detention) settings where infection needs to be identified quickly to minimise outbreaks.

## **Lateral Flow Test Kits for NHS Staff on Vaccination Sites:**

Please note that NHS staff should be accessing test kits via the national government website and should be testing and reporting before attending site.

More information on living with Covid-19 can be found on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-for-living-with-covid>

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

### SEL Primary Care resilience survey

As part of our Primary Care programme, we are looking to capture views in a resilience survey, which is open to all Primary Care staff in South East London. The survey is part of a project looking at the impact on general practice associated with the Covid pandemic, and how this could be addressed. It is intended to give an insight into workforce resilience which in turn will help guide future work to try to optimise workforce resilience within SEL. We will share its findings later in the Spring.

The survey is anonymous and should take less than 5 minutes to complete. Responses are requested by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you for your participation.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R7HGPZ3>

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### Call for GP Questions on Haematology

Haematology Consultants in SEL are establishing a series of very short, focused podcasts (5mins) to answer any questions primary care colleagues may have on the specialty. Topics/questions can cover any area of haematology care (cancer or non-cancer, medicines, interpreting results etc.), the only criteria is that it is a question you want answering or a topic you want more clarity on. If you have a question or a topic you would like discussed, please forward by way of a short email to Dr Winnie Kwan ([winnie.kwan@nhs.net](mailto:winnie.kwan@nhs.net)).

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### Health information and resources for Ukrainian refugees from GSTT

The Health Inclusion Team is a Guy's and St Thomas' multi-disciplinary community team offering access to health services for marginalised groups including refugees and asylum seekers in Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham.

The current situation in Ukraine is likely to result in an increase of Ukrainian refugees presenting for registration at GP practices. The Health Inclusion Team have put together some [helpful resources and clinical considerations](#) for local GP practices.

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### National Data Opt-Out: Compliance Date

NHS Digital has announced that the date you need to be compliant with the National Data Opt-Out has been extended. The date by which your Practice must now be compliant by is the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. There is additional guidance available [here](#).

If you have any questions contact your Data Protection Officer: [selccg.gpdpo@nhs.net](mailto:selccg.gpdpo@nhs.net)

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## Urgent Care Plan Programme: 31 March - Final Transition Briefing

As you will know, Coordinate My Care (CMC) is being replaced in London by the new Urgent Care Plan. The CMC service functions and provision of the care planning service will transfer from the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust to South West London CCG on the 1st April 2022. The current digital care planning application will remain in use until all developments are complete and London is ready to cut over to the new, improved Urgent Care Plan, hosted by South West London CCG.

Please read the [attached information](#) which sets out the service provision from 1st April 2022.

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## Diabetes Book & Learn survey

Diabetes commissioners from across south London wish to seek feedback on Diabetes Book & Learn from staff who refer patients to the service for diabetes structured education. Please share this survey with those people who make referrals to the service from within your practice. It takes less than 5 minutes to complete, and should be completed by 6pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

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## South East London ICS Green plan launch

The [South East London ICS Green Plan 2022-2025](#) has launched. The plan serves as an overarching system-wide sustainability strategy that encompasses and aligns with the NHS Trusts' Green Plans and the ICS's Primary Care Green Plan. Please read the message from Chief Operating Officer Christina Windle in full [here](#).

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## Enhanced Services sign up 2022/23

Enhanced Services available for practices to sign up to for 2022/2023. There are four available services, which are:

- Minor Surgery DES (London specification)
- Out of area registration: In hours urgent primary medical care (including home visits) Enhanced Service
- Learning Disabilities Health Checks Scheme. This will be offered to practices via CQRS when available
- [Weight Management Enhanced Service 2022/23](#). This has been offered to practices via CQRS and those wishing to sign up should approve the service offer.

In order to sign up to the above Enhanced Services, practices should click on the following link to complete the [Primary Care Enhanced Services 2022/23 sign up form](#) by the 30 April 2022.

If you require further information, please contact the South East London Primary Care Team via [england.selprimarycarequeries@nhs.net](mailto:england.selprimarycarequeries@nhs.net)

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## Viapath - Requesting Zinc levels

Viapath would like to highlight a few considerations when requesting and interpreting zinc results. Zinc levels in the blood are lowered during acute phase response. Therefore, a simultaneous CRP request on a gold top tube should be sent with every zinc request to enable interpretation. Furthermore, delayed sample separation can marginally raise zinc levels and this is irrespective of the sample type i.e. will also affect trace element royal blue top tubes. This may be of clinical significance when low levels are elevated into the normal range. We recommend a repeat zinc request in those with low normal zinc results if clinically indicated. If you have any queries please contact Dr Kishor Raja, Consultant Clinical Scientist [Kishor.raja@nhs.net](mailto:Kishor.raja@nhs.net) or 0203 299 3008. We have also included a link to Viapath's service updates page on their website which displays any communications recently sent: <http://www.viapath.co.uk/viapath-service-updates>.

**Viapath e-brief** - Please find the latest pathology service transfer update for GPs in Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham [here](#).

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## National PPE Acute and Primary Care Customer Insight Newsletter - 31 March 2022

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

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## Abortion services - Central Booking Service no longer exists for South East London Patients

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, residents or patients registered to a GP in South East London can now contact community abortion providers directly. SEL CCG have updated their webpage to inform about this change. This information is being uploaded automatically into the DXS system by the SEL Digital Delivery team, all old information for Termination of Pregnancy service will be deleted/removed. The new direct booking process comes into operation from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. Please use this link to update any internal libraries that you may use in your practices: <https://selondonccg.nhs.uk/abortion-in-sel>

If you have any questions please contact the SEL CCG TOPs Working Group: Bexley and Greenwich - [susan.davis4@nhs.net](mailto:susan.davis4@nhs.net); Bromley - [Amanda.easter@nhs.net](mailto:Amanda.easter@nhs.net); Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark - [VCottrell@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:VCottrell@lambeth.gov.uk).

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## Qwell no longer available in SE London

The pilot we ran of Qwell, an anonymous online counselling and emotional wellbeing service for people over 25 has now ended. New users are no longer able to register, however anyone already registered on the system will have access until the end of June.

There are a range of alternative resources available in each of our boroughs. Our [Free Your Mind](#) hub signposts to services and self-help resources.

[Kooth](#) remains available for all 10-25 year olds in south east London.

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## Updated dietary advice for smoked fish

Please see attached [a letter from UKHSA](#) in relation to updated dietary advice for smoked fish. This contains information for pregnant and vulnerable individuals to reflect the risk of listeriosis from smoked fish by amending the '[foods to avoid in pregnancy](#)' webpage, as well as the webpage on '[listeriosis](#)', which also includes details on specific actions people can take when handling, storing and preparing foods to reduce their risk of listeriosis.

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## Serious Shortage Protocol Updates

The Department of Health and Social Care have published further guidance regarding the following serious shortage protocols:

- Atorvastatin (Lipitor®) 20mg chewable tablets (SSP017) - now extended to Wednesday 13 April 2022.
- Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg (SSP014) – ended on the 1st April 2022 (earlier than the previous published date)

Please contact your pharmaceutical adviser if you have any queries.

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## Drug Alert – for information only

From PHE - You may have seen a recent press release about the death of a young woman following consumption of a cannabis 'gummy' here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-60989389>

We have not yet had confirmation of the cause of death, or results from toxicology. We have also not received analysis on the 'sweets' seized by the Met Police following the incident. We are in touch with staff at Redbridge Local Authority to try and establish further information regarding the incident and will share any further relevant information we receive.

If you are aware of any similar incidents in your borough, please fill in an LDIS form and submit the information to [london.drugalerts@phe.gov.uk](mailto:london.drugalerts@phe.gov.uk)

The particular batch of sweets were contained in packaging featuring 'Trilli Peachie O's' branding. An image is [here](#).

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## Reminder - Easter Bank Holiday Pharmacies Rota 2022

Easter Bank Holiday Pharmacies Rota 2022 Please see a [list of pharmacies](#) opening for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend April 2022. Saturday 16 April is not a Bank Holiday, however there will be some pharmacies who will be closed on this day. Patients can visit NHS.UK or call NHS111 if they wish to check.

## Cancer updates

### 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 March 2022.](#)

## Information from Acute Providers

### Community Foot Health Service Update

Please be advised that due to Covid sickness within the Community Podiatry Service, a majority of our General clinics held in Southwark and Lambeth have been cancelled, and many at short notice. This has affected our General clinic availability and at present we are unable to run a clinic for approximately 6-8 weeks.

We will continue to run our Home visiting, Wound and Emergency clinics throughout the Southwark and Lambeth community.

We apologise for this inconvenience and will continue to update you.

## Seminars, events, webinars and e-learning

### PCN advisor connect & share: population health and the PC ARRS roles

This online session will demonstrate how the personalised care ARRS roles fit into a population health approach to tackle health inequalities.

Wednesday 20 April 2022 - 15:00 – 16:30. Book via [link](#).

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### King's Health Partners Primary Care Webinars

**Primary Care Access** - The second in this year's King's Health Partners Primary Care Webinar series will focus on [The London General Practice Access Guide](#).

Wednesday 27 April, 13.00 to 14.00. More information and register [here](#).

### Maternal Medicine course for Primary Care

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

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### CAARMS training

Maudsley Learning, in collaboration with the Outreach and Support in South London (OASIS) team at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London University, have been commissioned to deliver free, online CAARMS training to NHS England staff working in early detection or intervention psychosis services or similar services. More information available [here](#).

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### Schwartz Rounds: Humanising healthcare and supporting staff across GSTT.

Friday 29 April, 12:30-13:30 on Teams.

Please email [Zowie.Loizou@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:Zowie.Loizou@gstt.nhs.uk) for the access link and ensure that you are in a private space for the Round'

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## NHSE/I pensions seminars for clinical staff

Pension seminars have restarted. There are four different sessions:

- Pensions Tax (Annual & Lifetime Allowance)  
Relevant for mid/late career, those affected or could be affected by pensions tax
- Flexible Working and Pensions  
Relevant for mid/late career
- Introduction to the NHS Pension Scheme  
Relevant for staff at all career stages
- The McCloud Remedy (April 2022 Pension Changes)  
May be relevant for anyone with service pre 31 March 2012 AND after 1 April 2015

These are aimed at clinical staff (e.g. nurses, GP nurses, midwives, AHPs and senior medical staff including GPs), particularly close to retirement.

To secure your place on a seminar, please use the booking link below:  
<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/NHS@ISIO.com/bookings/>

## Resources

### Thrive LDN - supporting the mental health and wellbeing of displaced Ukrainians and Afghans in London

Across London there are many people and organisations who are working hard to support those affected by the Ukraine and Afghan crises, particularly in helping displaced people settle into new lives in the UK. To help the response, Thrive LDN and London's health and care partners have put together some helpful resources and online training offers for volunteers and professionals. Read more [here](#).

### Reminder of resources available for parents - COVID-19 vaccination – guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11

Leaflets for parents of children aged 5 to 11 are found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-aged-5-to-11-years>

1. COVID-19 vaccination – guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11
2. What to expect after your child's COVID-19 vaccination leaflet (to be given with record card to all parents)
3. COVID-19 vaccination - guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 in a risk group