

Covid-19 Newsletter

Issue. 44

05 June 2020

Welcome to the latest edition of the Covid-19 newsletter. We will be issuing this newsletter to general practice on a regular basis to give you the latest updates and guidance. This isNH in place of the Weekly Inbox, publication of which has been suspended.

Previous issues – with attachments and [other useful links and resources](#) can be found [here](#). Clicking this link will not just give you access to archived newsletters but enable to access all the past resources and separate attachments plus a wealth of other resources that may not be in the newsletters. So please give it a go!

<p>Weekend Opening</p>	<p>We have previously confirmed each week regarding weekend opening. In the future if we need practices to open we will contact you by 5pm on Thursday afternoon (sooner if possible). In the absence of such a notification please assume weekend opening is not required.</p>
<p>Antibody testing</p>	<p>Antibody (serology) tests for COVID19 is available from Thursday 4 June 2020 for patients registered with you. This communication explains what this test can (and cannot) do, the arrangements for testing and getting results.</p> <p>Covid19 antibody testing Primary Care Information</p>
<p>Review of disparities in COVID-19 risks and outcomes</p>	<p>Public Health England has published a review into how different factors have affected COVID-19 risk and outcomes. This is a descriptive review of surveillance data on disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID-19. The review looked at different factors including age and sex, where people live, deprivation, ethnicity, people’s occupation and care home residence. PHE’s investigation found that age is the biggest risk factor for coronavirus, followed by gender. Living in a city and being black or from a minority ethnic background are also significant risk factors. You can read the full report here.</p>
<p>Immunisation /Vaccination/ Flu</p>	<p>Prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, the GP Training Hub had organised a series of immunisation, vaccination and flu updates which subsequently had to be cancelled. However, the hub has worked in conjunction with its training provider to arrange a series of online webinars (see <i>attached</i> details). Please share with your relevant practice staff and encourage them to submit an application form if they are interested in taking part (one is embedded within the details, but if that is inaccessible, another is attached separately). All applications should be returned to PACT@suffolkch.nhs.uk.</p> <p>Immunisation and vaccination webinars</p> <p>Webinar application form (download)</p>

Electronic Repeat Dispensing	Please find <i>attached</i> a letter from NHSE regarding temporary changes to the need for patient consent to maximise use of the Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) system during the coronavirus pandemic. eRD letter
Exposed patients	The Government has published new guidance on the management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings.
Shielding Patients	Please find <i>attached</i> update for your information. NHS Support for Patients who are Shielding June 2020
PPE portal	Some practices may have received email invitations from DHSC to register with its new PPE ordering portal, which is being delivered in conjunction with eBay . These invitations are bona fide, but may have inadvertently gone into your junk email folders, so we would advise you to check there just in case. If you haven't yet received an invitation, please rest assured that one is pending. It would appear that the portal enables practices to order face masks, gloves and aprons, as well as combination packs. In the meantime, please remember that if you are struggling with supplies we are here to help and can be contacted via snee-ppe@suffolk.nhs.uk
Diabetes	Please see <i>attached</i> details of the Diabetes Advice Helpline that has been launched by NHSE/I to provide insulin users with immediate advice during the pandemic, and associated resources. NHS Diabetes Advice Helpline FAQs and materials
Training and Education event	We are looking to restart our GP educational afternoons on Thursday 9 July 2020 – online, via MS Teams - with Out of Hours cover in place from 1pm – 6.30pm in the usual way. Our plan is to run a full programme with a clinical topic and additional meetings to include prescribing leads, practice nurse forum, PCNs and care navigator forum. More information to follow.
CCG stakeholder update	Please see <i>attached</i> the latest stakeholders update from Dr Ed Garratt, Chief Executive of the NHS Ipswich & East Suffolk, NHS West Suffolk and NHS North East Essex CCGs and Executive Lead for the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care System. Ed Garratt Update 3 June

If have any questions or important information to share in the next edition, please contact [Caroline Procter](#).

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Visit the [CCG Covid-19 webpage](#) where you can find many [other useful links and resources](#)