



COVID-19 Update

Thursday 4th June 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: COVID-19 operational pressures survey; weekly news updates.

COVID-19 operational pressures on independent pharmacies – May 2020 survey

PSNC is collecting data on an ongoing basis to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on pharmacies in England. As part of this, we are asking contractors running independent pharmacies to fill out a 'Temperature Check' survey looking at the various pressures on their pharmacy in May 2020.

Head Offices of larger groups have been contacted separately to collect data via AIM and CCA. Please do not fill out this survey if you are part of a larger group.

If you run an independent pharmacy, we would be very grateful if you could [fill out the survey by clicking here](#). The questions can be downloaded in advance to help you collate your response before filling out the Survey Monkey questionnaire. The survey is open now until Friday 12th June.

Data will be aggregated to help understand the pressures independent pharmacies are facing, and individual responses will not be shared.

Weekly News Updates

With new information and guidance relating to the COVID-19 pandemic still being published on an almost daily basis, to help contractors and LPCs keep track of things, we are continuing to publish our weekly news round-ups alongside these daily emails. These are published every Monday and include all the key news and guidance from the previous week.

[Click here to find the latest news round-up](#)

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's COVID-19 hub has an [FAQs page](#) with a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are being updated on an almost daily basis. Recent additions include:

Q. How will the 2020/21 Flu Vaccination Service be delivered safely by pharmacists?

Due to the public health advice on social distancing and shielding, the flu vaccination programme this year may need to be provided in a different way, for example, with pharmacists wearing PPE. It is also likely that increased public awareness of infection control will mean there is an increased demand for vaccination from eligible patients. Public Health England, NHSE&I and DHSC are considering the potential changes that may need to be made when administering flu vaccines this year and further guidance will be issued to contractors in due course.

Q. PPE remains an issue for community pharmacy, when can we expect an update on community pharmacy having access to the PHE PPE stockpile?

PPE from the stockpile is being supplied on a regular basis to three mainline wholesalers (AAH, Alliance Healthcare and Phoenix Healthcare). The Healthcare Distribution Association (HDA) did report some delays at one stage – PSNC published a story on this to make contractors aware and have been in discussion with HDA to monitor the situation since.

A new online ordering site is being developed and will enable primary care, community care and social care providers to register their PPE requirements more easily. The site will be rolled out so that these providers can request critical PPE from a central inventory. Orders will be managed in line with the published guidance from Public Health England and shipped directly via Royal Mail. Further details will be released in due course on how to register for access to the portal, however it is also possible that alternative arrangements will be made for pharmacy contractors, so they can continue to obtain supplies from wholesalers, rather than necessarily having to use a new, additional supply system.

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

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