



Daily Update

Monday 24th August 2020

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

In today's update: PPE guidance updated

The national COVID-19 infection prevention and control recommendations issued by the UK public health bodies were updated at the end of last week; this includes further changes to the recommendations on use of personal protective equipment (PPE), which will impact on community pharmacy service provision, including the flu vaccination Advanced service.

COVID-19: Guidance for the remobilisation of services within health and care settings – Infection prevention and control recommendations

This supersedes the previous guidance issued on 18th June 2020 and separate advice on the use of PPE when administering vaccines, issued by PHE and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I).

The guidance does **not** change the previous recommendations for community pharmacy staff use of face masks for pharmacy staff interactions with patients or staff working in the pharmacy.

It does, however, change some of the guidance on wider use of PPE when providing direct care to patients. Previously, where direct care of potentially infected patients was provided, the general recommendation was for use of Type IIR masks, disposable gloves, disposable aprons and eye protection.

In the revised guidance, gloves and aprons are recommended when there is (anticipated) exposure to blood/body fluids or non-intact skin.

The guidance states that in some clinical settings, such as vaccination/injection clinics, where contact with individuals is minimal, the need for single use PPE items for each encounter, for example, gloves and aprons is not necessary. **Staff administering vaccinations/injections must apply hand hygiene between patients and wear a sessional Type IIR mask.**

The previous guidance on PPE to be used when vaccinating patients was use of a Type IIR mask and eye protection on a sessional basis and use of disposable gloves and aprons on a single use, changed between each patient.

[Read our full story here](#)

Have you seen our latest COVID-19 related 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 a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. The sourcing of PPE through wholesalers is another financial burden for contractors. What is PSNC doing to ensure pharmacies have access to PPE and that the cost of PPE purchased through wholesalers is accounted for?
PSNC is pressing DHSC and NHSE&I to ensure that pharmacy teams have access to the PPE they need from the PHE stockpile. We are also working to ensure that the cost of PPE is reflected in the additional pandemic funding we are seeking for the sector.

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

Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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