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

In today's update: Pandemic Delivery Service restarts; COVID vaccination service; difficulties accessing MYS platform.

Pandemic Delivery Service restarts across England

Earlier today we sent an email news alert confirming that the Pandemic Delivery Service would restart during the November lockdown period.

The service will apply across the whole of England from 5th November 2020 to 3rd December 2020 to support people who are clinically extremely vulnerable. Pharmacy contractors will receive the Essential service payment for the days the service is active and will be able to claim payment to deliver a prescription to a clinically extremely vulnerable patient (excluding Distance Selling Pharmacies).

Read the full details in our news article

Commenting on this news, **Alastair Buxton, PSNC Director of NHS Services**, said:

"Community pharmacy teams are continuing to rise to the challenge of supporting the most vulnerable patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a vital role but also puts pressure on their stretched resources, so we are pleased that with the reinstatement of the Pandemic Delivery Service comes additional funding to support contractors in this work."

COVID vaccination service

NHS Chief Executive Simon Stevens has announced that GPs will receive information this week to help them prepare to administer COVID vaccinations before Christmas, providing one becomes available.

Whilst the details have yet to be finalised, we can confirm that PSNC is working with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to agree how pharmacy contractors can play a part in the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Community pharmacy teams have had a central role in the response to the pandemic so far, and we believe that this should continue as new treatments and vaccinations become available.

The success of the Flu Vaccination Service highlights just how effective community pharmacies are in delivering key public health initiatives and means the majority of pharmacists are already trained in administering vaccines.

More information will be released when it becomes available.

Difficulties accessing MYS using certain web browsers

Some pharmacy contractors have reported difficulties accessing the **Manage Your Service (MYS) portal** on the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website when attempting to log in using internet browsers such as Google Chrome (version 84 or newer), Microsoft Edge and Internet Explorer. NHSBSA are aware of this and are working to resolve the issues.

Until a fix is in place, NHSBSA recommends that contractors use other browsers such as Firefox and Safari to submit any claims via MYS.

> ### Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's website has a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are updated on a regular basis. Recent additions include:

Q. My pharmacy staff members have been unable to access COVID-19 testing, what should they do?
Community pharmacists and their staff are classed as **essential workers who are prioritised for testing** and employers can refer essential workers for testing if they are self-isolating because either they or members of their household have coronavirus symptoms.

They can do this by uploading the names and contact details of self-isolating essential workers to the secure employer referral portal. Referred essential workers will then receive a text message with a unique invitation code to **book a test for themselves** (if symptomatic) or their symptomatic household members at a testing site.

To get a login to the employer referral portal, pharmacy contractors should email **portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk** with the following information:

- organisation name
- nature of the organisation's business
- region
- names (where possible) and email addresses of the 2 users who will load essential worker contact details

Once employer details have been verified, two login credentials will be provided for the employer referral portal.

GOV.UK guidance on getting tested for COVID-19

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