



# Daily Update

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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

**In today's update: new pharmacist education and training standards; volunteers sought for PPE advisory panel; updated vaccine supply notification; first December price concessions.**

## **GPhC approves new pharmacist education and training standards**

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has approved [new standards for the initial education and training \(IET\) of pharmacists](#), making prescribing skills an integral part of the training.

The new standards will bring significant reform, educating pharmacists to become independent prescribers at the point of registration and introducing a foundation training year. The changes are intended to enable pharmacists to provide more clinical care, thereby better preparing them for their future role.

[Learn more about the new standards](#)

## **Volunteers sought for new national PPE advisory panel**

The National COVID PPE team at the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) is looking for volunteers from a range of roles within community pharmacy to join a new national panel to discuss their experiences relating to personal protective equipment (PPE).

The panel is expected to help set up a long term, sustainable process for gathering information on PPE usage and inform decision making and improvement plans with frontline perspectives. To express an interest or request further information, please contact [moira.philpott@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:moira.philpott@dhsc.gov.uk)

## **Updated vaccine supply notification**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued an updated vaccine supply notification for 23 valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23) pre-filled syringes (Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited). This states that supplies of Pneumovax® 23 pre-filled syringes are expected to be out of stock until late January 2021.

[Find out more](#)

## December 2020 Price Concessions – 1st Update

The DHSC has also today granted a list of initial price concessions for December 2020.

[Click here to view the list in full](#)

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. How am I supposed to protect my staff from catching COVID-19?**

Contractors are advised to ensure that:

- Patient information posters for NHS settings are displayed so they can be seen before patients enter the premises.
- A [risk review for their pharmacy and individual risk assessments for staff](#) have been completed and steps put in place to mitigate any risks identified.
- [All pharmacy staff should now wear facemasks](#), unless the pharmacy is COVID-19 secure, including all staff being able to maintain a social distance from one another.
- All pharmacy staff practice good hygiene and avoiding direct or close contact (closer than one metre when providing health care) with any potentially infected person.
- Users of the pharmacy should be advised to keep a distance of at least two metres from other people.
- Additional appropriate PPE is used.

Public Health England (PHE) has advised that full height screens installed on medicines counters would provide helpful protection for staff and PSNC advises pharmacy contractors to consider installing these wherever possible.

**Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)**

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



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