



# Daily Update

Wednesday 16<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: Community pharmacy and C-19 vaccination; flu and the C-19 vaccine; suppliers' Christmas opening hours.**

### **Community pharmacy already playing its part in COVID-19 vaccination**

Despite the practical challenges of providing a COVID-19 vaccination service using the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, many community pharmacy contractors have stepped forward to play their part in the NHS programme by submitting hundreds of expressions of interest to NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) to run designated vaccination sites. NHSE&I regional teams are currently working with contractors that submitted proposals for areas where additional capacity is required, to assess whether the sites can be approved to participate in the vaccination programme.

In the meantime, the first Primary Care Network (PCN)/general practice designated vaccination sites have started to vaccinate patients this week, with some pharmacy contractors playing their part in supporting the wider PCN endeavour to start vaccinating the most vulnerable patients. Yesterday morning (15th December 2020), Garry Myers, a community pharmacist in Sheffield started vaccinating patients, alongside colleagues at his local PCN vaccination site.

Commenting on the first day of vaccinating patients, **Garry Myers, community pharmacy contractor and PSNC Regional Representative** said:

"It is great to be one of the first community pharmacists in the world to administer the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, but I know many of my colleagues are really keen to play their part too over the coming weeks. Hopefully the practical challenges seen with the current vaccine will lessen as more vaccines are authorised for use, increasing the ability of community pharmacy teams to play a larger role in the programme."

[Read more about how pharmacy has been supporting the vaccination programme](#)

### **Flu and the COVID-19 vaccine**

Some patients may be asking community pharmacists and their teams about COVID-19 vaccination and whether flu vaccination is still required. The message for patients, including social care workers, is that they still need to get the flu vaccine even if they will be getting the COVID-19 vaccine soon, as the COVID-19 vaccine will not protect them against the flu or stop them spreading the flu virus.

Eligible patients should still get their flu vaccination at the earliest opportunity to protect themselves and those around them. They should not delay getting vaccinated in anticipation of being offered the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ideally there should be a gap of at least seven days between a flu vaccination and either dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination (which is given in two doses, 21 days apart). If patients are called to get a COVID-19 vaccination within seven days of receiving their flu vaccination, in the majority of cases, vaccination with the COVID-19 vaccine will proceed to avoid any further delay in protection. The suggested seven-day gap between the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine is recommended so that if patients experience any side-effects, it will be easier to identify which vaccine caused them.

Further information can be found in [Chapter 14a, The Green Book: C-19 vaccination](#).

## **Manufacturer & Wholesaler Christmas Opening Hours 2020**

At this busy time of year manufacturers are working closely with wholesalers to ensure that sufficient stock is available at wholesalers for the Christmas period. To help community pharmacy teams keep on top of customer service desk opening hours and delivery dates around this time, PSNC is working with suppliers to collate this information together in one place for easy reference.

[View PSNC's summary information](#)

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

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