



6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Colleague

Please see below our latest updates for your information:

### **Communications to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) individuals in Tier 4 (England)**

Shielding has been reintroduced in Tier 4 areas in England, and as a result DHSC has sent texts to patients on the Shielded Patient List. This is to ensure affected patients receive the right guidance quickly. This text will be sent from GOV.UK and texts patients affected should have received these.

The up to date advice for patients that are shielding can be found [here](#).

### **PPE – Face Masks and Coverings**

Practices should be aware of current guidance, which includes:

- [Public Health England guidance on the use of Personal Protective Equipment for NHS teams](#)
- [Further Government advice on working safely in nonhospital settings](#)

The PHE guidance recommends that those working in reception and communal areas who are unable to social distance, should wear a fluid repellent mask. With infections in the community increasing ensuring that the guidelines are followed where social distancing cannot be carried out will help to ensure that both patients and colleagues are protected.

### **Suspension of GP Appraisals**

GP appraisals have been suspended until the end of March in light of the very high Covid case numbers and to support the roll out of the vaccination programme.

Appraisals booked and due to be completed by 5pm on 8 January 2021 can still go ahead if the appraiser and appraisee agree. But all other appraisals, either planned or booked, will be cancelled and recorded as 'approved missed appraisal for the current appraisal year'.

Kind regards  
Kent Local Medical Committee



**Kent Local Medical Committee**

8 Roebuck Business Park

Ashford Road,

Harrietsham

Kent ME17 1AB

Tel: 01622 851197

Fax: 01622 851198

[www.kentlmc.org](http://www.kentlmc.org)

*Supporting list based personalised care,  
the partnership model and meaningful collaboration*