

Coronavirus - LMC Update January 7th 2021

Support from the LMC

Welcome to our first update of 2021. We know that practices are working flat out to implement the vaccination programme and really appreciate all you are doing – please remember the LMC is here to support you.

- We're regularly updating our website with all the latest guidance and resources – see our [Covid-19 vaccination programme page](#) for links.
- Visit our [support page](#) for details of services available to people working in general practice. Some services are aimed at GPs whilst others are also open to members of the practice team such as practice managers, practice nurses, and non-clinical staff.
- This month we are hosting a series of First Aid for Primary Care Staff webinars – 75 minute sessions provide you with some practical and immediate help. They are free of charge, and open to anyone working in primary care. Full details below.
- If you can't find the answer to your query remember you can [contact us](#) for help and advice and we'll respond as soon as we can.

First Aid for Primary Care Staff webinars

Humberside LMCs have commissioned We Are Beyond (previously Beyond Coaching) to provide a series of bitesize webinars over the coming weeks to try and provide you with some practical and immediate help. They are free of charge, and open to anyone working in primary care. Please share them in your practice team. Visit our [events page](#) for online booking.

- **Thrive - Identify key resilience factors**

Thursday 7th January, 6:15-7:30pm

Wednesday 13th January, 6:15-7:30pm

- **Use the power of your mind to boost resilience**

Wednesday 20th January, 9:15-10:30am

- **Practical ways to shift your thinking**

Thursday 28th January, 12:15-1:30pm

COVID Vaccinations for locums and Sessional GPs

In light of some areas already inviting frontline healthcare workers for COVID vaccinations, GPs are now starting to be vaccinated themselves. To ensure that all of our local GPs are offered appointments, sessional and locum GPs are being asked to check that they are coded as healthcare workers at their registered practices - this should result in them being included in any appointment invitations. However, there may be sessional/locum GPs working within your practices/PCNs, and some may even be assisting with the vaccination programme. In these instances, provided JCVI guidance is adhered to, we would ask that these colleagues are considered for vaccinations if appropriate.

NHSE (North East and Yorkshire) have also supplied further guidance on routes for sessional GPs to be vaccinated:

“There are a number of potential routes to be vaccinated as a sessional GP:

1. via a PCN if they are working/or have a working relationship with one of the constituent member practices of that PCN
2. via a GP federation who employs sessional GP's
3. via their own GP practice (which will be drawing up there priority list of patients to submit to their PCN for immunisation)- the default position in many cases
4. via mass vaccination sites as they come on line- currently projected that 50 to come on line in England by the end of January
5. via Trust hospital hub if they are working there/or have a working relationship with a trust team

There is currently no formal route specifically designed for sessional GP's, however they should all be able to access vaccine by at least one of the above routes.”

Lateral Flow Testing

Further to the introduction of regular testing of asymptomatic patient-facing NHS staff (see [Coronavirus » Asymptomatic staff testing for COVID-19 for primary care staff \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)), we have had clarification from NHSEI on access to lateral flow testing for primary care locum staff.

These staff should ask a practice that they work for to order the kit for them as practices can order as many kits as they want to. If they work in out of hours only the provider should be able to order them if they have a link to a GP practice.

New and Updated Guidance

Updates to key guidance this week include:

- [Operational guidance: vaccination of frontline health and social care workers](#) (7 January)
- [Standard operating procedure: COVID-19 local vaccination services deployment in community settings](#) (updated 6 January, includes new details on the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine)
- [Deployment of COVID-19 Vaccine Oxford/AstraZeneca: implications for governance, handling and preparation of vaccines](#) (updated 31 December)

EU Exit and Primary Care

We have updated our [guidance on the UK's exit from the EU](#) following the agreement on the UK's future relationship with the EU.

Transfer of vaccination information

The BMA is in discussion with NHS Digital to resolve the current inability to electronically transfer information about COVID-19 vaccinations given in to EMIS patient records. EMIS and NHSD are currently deploying a mechanism for this to be done automatically and this should go live in January.

Until then practices do not need to manually process this information. If they do file this they should follow the advice from EMIS on the key qualifiers that need to be manually added. Once the automatic arrangement is deployed it will duplicate this information and it is possible that the practice entered information may be disregarded. The clinical safety processes are currently being worked through and more information will be provided as soon as possible.

Patient videos in different languages for COVID-19 vaccination programme

Colleagues in West Yorkshire have produced some short videos in alternative languages to help people understand more about the coronavirus vaccine and what it means for them. These are recorded by GPs and are based on the patient leaflets produced by Public Health England to make sure patients get consistent information. The videos,

available on [YouTube](#), are aimed at helping people over the age of 80, for whom English may not be their first language, have the right information about the vaccine in a way that is meaningful and easy to understand.

Discrimination Survey

Thank you to everyone who has so far responded to the Racism and Discrimination survey. If you have not yet responded, please follow the link to the survey, below.

[LMC Discrimination Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://surveymonkey.co.uk)

The survey is supported by our CCG partners and is aimed at all staff working in primary care to help us understand your experiences and feelings about racism and discrimination. We would very much appreciate any time you can give to providing your views via the survey which is likely to take between 5 and 15 minutes to complete.

Hull Medical Society: How to Beat Stress with Breathing and Mindfulness

Friday, 15th January, 7.00 – 8.15pm, Virtual Platform (Zoom)

Full details and online booking: [How to Beat Stress with Breathing and Mindfulness Tickets, Fri 15 Jan 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

NHSE/ Primary Care Bulletins

All NHSEI bulletins, plus sign up link, can be found on the NHSE website [here](#).

Recent editions and summary of contents:

- [06/01/2021](#): shielding advice for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) people; introduction of the new Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and update to Standard Operating Procedures; updated Patient Group Direction for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 (Pfizer/BioNTech); communicating with people with a learning disability and autism, dementia and mental health needs – COVID-19 guidance; guidance for COVID-19 vaccination in care homes that have cases and outbreaks; recording of ethnicity information
- [31/12/2020](#): change to Covid vaccination programme; details on the effectiveness of a single dose of either the Pfizer/BioNTech or Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.
- [30/12/2020](#): MHRA's approval of a new Astra Zeneca vaccine; guidance on dose interval for the second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine; Local Enhanced Service for Community Pharmacy Vaccination; Operational priorities for winter and 2021/22; Transportation of Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine BNT162b2 within PCNs; Home delivery of medicines and appliances during the COVID-19 outbreak; COVID-19 vaccinations and participation in research and surveillance studies; Reminder to order lateral flow tests.