



# Briefing for all Lincolnshire practices on Covid-19 Response

**31th March 2020**

- Daily briefing will be issued at 5pm
- Will include latest national guidance, local plans, updates on actions and answers to key questions
- General queries from practices should be emailed to [lincsprimary.covid19@nhs.net](mailto:lincsprimary.covid19@nhs.net)  
Responses will be provided in the daily briefing
- The clinical forum is established, meeting twice a week. Feedback of guidance with regards clinical issues will be provided via the daily briefing.
- Local escalation/issues to be raised directly with your regular primary care team
- Additional names for the daily briefing email should be sent to the generic email address above

In today's briefing:

1. High Importance
2. Normal Action
3. For Information
4. Communications
5. National Guidance
6. Contact

## 1.High Importance

### Temporary Cessation of Microbiology Laboratory Analysis for Certain Specimens

#### With Immediate Effect:

- In order to redirect the work of the Path Links Microbiology laboratories towards meeting the demands of the present COVID-19 epidemic and to preserve our surge capacity, we are suspending the routine processing of some specimens.
- In parallel with this action we are asking you to exercise your own demand management by ceasing the collection of these specimens.
- The laboratories will not be storing any of them for future analysis and, if they are received by the laboratories, they will be rejected and a report issued to that effect in the usual way.
- The specimens that we are suspending the analysis of are as follows:
  - Respiratory Virus Testing
  - Screening for Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria
  - Wound and Genital Swabs
  - Faecal Specimens
  - Urine Specimens
  - Sputum Specimens
  - Mycology Specimens
  - Helicobacter pylori Specimens



Demand  
Management Letter to

## 2. Normal Action

### Cremation Form Update

- Any paperwork dated before Friday 27th March will still require form 4/5.
- Anything going forward from Friday 27th March only requires form 4.



Cremation form  
Update (1).docx



Joint-Statement-on-  
Coronavirus-Act-2020

## Normal Action

### Advice on fibroids or endometriosis and smears from ULHT Gynaecology Team

- For fibroids or endometriosis, you can move to a 3 monthly preparation, either Goserlin = Zoladex LA (10.8 mg) subcutaneous injection into anterior abdominal wall once every 3 months or Leuprolin Acetate = Prostag 3DCS (11.25mg) subcutaneous injection once every 3 months.
- Most practices are deferring smear recalls for 3 months, as are the colonoscopy clinic. Gynae recommend we do this.

## Normal Action

### GPs should not examine children's throats 'unless absolutely necessary'

Message from Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

- The college said 'there was' growing concern about asymptomatic children spreading the infection.
- It is noted that the viral replication has been shown to take place in both the upper and lower airway.
- Clinicians should only look at the oropharynx of children if essential, in which case PPE comprising a fluid resistant surgical face mask, plastic apron and gloves should be worn.

[http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/clinical/clinical-specialties/respiratory-/gps-should-not-examine-childrens-throats-unless-absolutely-necessary/20040478.article?utm\\_source=pulse%20daily&utm\\_medium=newsletter](http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/clinical/clinical-specialties/respiratory-/gps-should-not-examine-childrens-throats-unless-absolutely-necessary/20040478.article?utm_source=pulse%20daily&utm_medium=newsletter)

### 3. FOR INFORMATION

#### Upcoming Webinars- NHS England

30<sup>th</sup> March

**Establishing a total triage model using eConsult and how to set up virtual hubs – [register here](#)**

This one hour webinar will look at practical steps general practice should take to establish a total triage model using eConsult and how to set up and utilise virtual hubs.

31<sup>st</sup> March 12:30 – 1:00

**COVID-19 Helping practice staff make the most of digital services – [register here](#)**

This webinar is to help you make the most out of digital services during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect your staff and patients.

1<sup>st</sup> April 12:00 – 1:00

**Using remote triaging and online consultations in managing COVID-19 – [register here](#)**

This one hour webinar will look at practical steps general practice should take to establish a total triage model using the AskMyGP system and how to set up and utilise virtual hubs using AskMyGP.

2<sup>nd</sup> April 4:30 – 5:00

**COVID-19 Helping practice staff make the most of digital services – [register here](#)**

This webinar is to help you make the most out of your online services during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect your staff and patients.

If you are unable to attend these events please note that recordings, slide decks and other resources will be held on our FutureNHS workspace [Digital Primary Care](#). This workspace is open to anyone who is registered with Future NHS, but if you need an invitation to get access then please contact [england.digitafirstprimarycare@nhs.net](mailto:england.digitafirstprimarycare@nhs.net) with the request.

### FOR INFORMATION

#### NLAG Referral process during pandemic

- GP Referral Arrangements for Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust.
- With effect from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- Routine referrals in the current emergency situation and hospital pressures will be discussed by the GP with the patient and postponed where clinically safe to do so.
- Urgent and 2 Week Wait referrals will follow the process explained below. A flowchart is included for the process.



GP Referral  
Arrangements for No

## FOR INFORMATION

### Updated version on guidance for DOAC's from yesterday's brief



DOAC switching in  
COVID19 epidemic F

## FOR INFORMATION

### COVID-19 Resource Hub- RCGP

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is arguably one of the greatest public health challenges of our time – not least for general practice, where over 1 million patients are already treated every day. The Royal College of GPs has put together a webpage of resources to support GPs in understanding and managing the pandemic, with topics ranging from diagnosis to keeping practices safe. This hub will be updated daily with the latest developments and guidance. Included within this link:

- RCGP- summary of latest guidance
- Top 10 tips on what to do in primary care
- Managing patients with chronic respiratory symptoms during a pandemic
- Shielding the vulnerable patient from COVID19
- COVID19 and safeguarding
- Changes to death certification
- Clinical management in primary care
- Palliative care

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/view.php?id=373>

## FOR INFORMATION

### Lincolnshire Registration Service

- The final date for face-to-face registration in Lincolnshire will be **Friday 3 April 2020**
- Appointments to register on this date **must** be booked by Thursday 2 April as no bookings will be taken from contact on 3 April itself.
- If a family are not able to make a booking in time please **do not issue the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) to them.**
- We would ask that they, and all MCCDs issued after that are or held by you that cannot be collected instead scanned (both sides) to [secureregistrars@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:secureregistrars@lincolnshire.gov.uk) please with the heading 'MCCD Surname of deceased and date of death e.g. MCCD DAVIES 25/03/2020.
- We should be grateful if the e-mail itself could contain the full name of the deceased, the surgery/hospital name and contact telephone number from whom the scan is being sent, whether the death was referred to the Coroner, the name and telephone number of the person who will be completing the death registration for us to contact by telephone.
- Receiving this information from you will mean that the family will not have to contact us to arrange an appointment, as we will contact them to reduce the things they need to do.

- We would ask that the families do not telephone us if they do not receive a telephone call, unless a period of two-weeks have passed since the MCCD was scanned, as these calls will reduce the number of registrars available to complete registrations
- **We will eventually need the original documents but ask that you securely retain any MCCDs scanned to us and we will send out further instructions about these documents at a later date.**
- Further information is available on:
  - Guidance on cause of death and acceptance of MCCDs relating to Covid-19
  - MCCD for registration purposes
  - Signing of the MCCD
  - The registration
  - Electronic transmission of documents



Information to  
doctors re sending M

## FOR INFORMATION

### Lincolnshire Community Equipment Service

Message sent on behalf of Louise Molina, operational and transformation delivery manager for the Lincolnshire Community Equipment Service:

- We are sending out a press release to increase collections of specialist equipment.
- It is vital we maintain our collection rates, to ensure flow of equipment, particularly as we are now experiencing some suppliers having stock issues.
- We are **waiting on beds, and stand aids**, because of the increased demand nationally, including our own.
- Please can we request that you only order equipment that is absolutely essential and order the minimum level to meet need and keep people safe.
- Please also ensure you use the new Covid delivery codes on orders which are Covid related, as this ensures we can track use and be reimbursed by the Government.



Lincolnshire  
Community Equipme

## FOR INFORMATION

### Provision of tuberculosis services

Letter from Matthew Fagg -Programme Director NHS England and Andrew Menzies-Gow- National Clinical Director, Respiratory Medicine , NHS England.

- Providers of TB services must maintain their focus on early diagnosis and the management and care of people with active TB disease during this current situation.
- Maintaining the provision of TB services will include ensuring TB clinics (new patients/follow-up/treatment adherence/DOTs/contact tracing) are adequately staffed.
- Patients fearful of attending appointments due to current advice about social distancing should be offered alternative support through telephone or mobile telephone communication apps.
- To reduce person-to-person contact a blood test (IGRA) can be used for contact tracing instead of the TST/Mantoux test.
- Public Health England (PHE) will maintain the National Mycobacterium Reference Service during the COVID-19 outbreak and with NHS-based laboratories expects laboratories to prioritise the following: identification of TB, drug-resistant TB and drug susceptibility testing, where indicated, identification of non-Tuberculous mycobacteria, if clinically indicated , data flows to enable TB contact tracing, and in particular MDR-TB.



Maintenance of TB services\_26 March FI

## FOR INFORMATION

### Update for infectious disease outbreaks in Lincolnshire Care Homes/Schools.



Update for infectious disease outbreaks in l

## FOR INFORMATION



## COVID-19 Primary Care bulletin

30 March 2020

### COVID-19: today's round-up for primary care

Dear primary care colleagues,

We hope you got the chance for some much needed rest over the weekend.

#### **New NHS text service launched**

A new service was launched on Saturday where new patients who register their Covid-19 symptoms and contact details with the 111 online service will receive daily texts from the NHS. The messages will check how people are and ensure that those who need help to get them through the isolation period receive it. The text messages will be sent as a reassurance to those who contact NHS 111 online, complete the assessment, and leave basic information such as their age, mobile number and when their symptoms started.

#### **Webinars**

Thank you to everyone that has joined the range of primary care webinars we have set up. You can find [details here of upcoming webinars](#) and we will continue to upload content from previous webinars in case you missed any.

### General practice

A reminder that the latest general practice preparedness [update](#) was published on Saturday 28 March and included guidance on COVID-19 Primary Care Operating Model and on preparations for the bank holiday.

#### **NHSmail for GP Locums**

We have been working with the [BMA](#), [NASGP](#) and NHS Digital to establish a process for GP Locums to register for an NHSmail account. This means GP Locums who may be working across different sites can register for an NHSmail account, which they can continue to use across assignments and will not be fixed to a specific organisation. For more information visit [this webpage](#) or complete the [registration form here](#).

#### **Identifying and supporting patients at highest clinical risk from Corona Virus**

We have received a number of questions about this process and are producing an FAQ document which aims to answer as many of those queries as possible. In the meantime, the information below

covers some of the key issues that most of you have raised with us:

- All [patient letters](#) generated by the central process have now been distributed and should have been received via Royal Mail.
- In line with the letters from [CMO](#) and [NHSE/I](#), all patients included in the CMO defined cohort that could be identified through centrally available data should have been flagged in practice IT systems.
- GPs should have received a report from their system supplier. This report can be run locally on your practice IT systems – you will not receive separate notice about this.
- If your practice have not yet got your patient flags, or report, please contact your IT system supplier and let NHSE know immediately, via: [England.covid-highestrisk@nhs.net](mailto:England.covid-highestrisk@nhs.net) Please do not send any lists of patients or other patient identifiable data to this email address.
- We knew the data in the initial extract would not be complete due to the limitations of centrally available data. This week, NHS Digital will update the original cohort and identify some additional patients based on GP data. Any additional patients identified will be flagged in GP systems in the same way as the original cohort and practices will have an updated report in their system.
- After this next update we would like practices to review the list for accuracy and identify any additional patients who meet the CMO's original criteria but are not included amongst those identified. We will provide further details of how this should be done via GP system suppliers.
- As set out in the [CMO letter](#), there may be other patients, not included in the original CMO cohort, that GPs consider to be in the highest risk category and who should be advised to shield. We expect this to be small numbers; shielding will only be effective if we focus these most stringent protective measures on those at the highest clinical risk.
- We will be in touch later this week to confirm a streamlined process for reviewing and updating your lists. We advise you wait for this before running any further searches.

## Community pharmacy

### Community Pharmacy Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

The updated SOP was published on 22 March and can be found on the [NHS England website](#).

## Additional information

### NHS discounts

NHS England and NHS Improvement has published a list of verified [offers/discounts](#) for NHS staff so you can take advantage of them. It includes all offers that we have been able to confirm so far across supermarkets, food and transport. The list includes details of how to access the offers, and any terms and conditions to be aware of.

## Dates for your diary

## Primary Care #Covid19 Webinars



**Ed Waller**  
Director of Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts  
NHS England and NHS Improvement

A weekly update for general practice regarding the emerging COVID-19 situation.

**Every Thursday from 5pm - 6pm**

Join the **2 April** webinar:  
<https://bit.ly/covid19gp0204>



**Dr Nikki Kanani**  
Medical Director for Primary Care  
NHS England and NHS Improvement



#primarycarenetworks
#COVID19
@NHSEngland
@DHCSgovuk
@PHE\_uk

### Nikki and Ed's Link of the Day

The BMA, Care Provide Alliance, CQC and RCGP have published a joint statement on advance care planning. The importance of having a personalised care plan in place, especially for older people, people who are frail or have other serious conditions has never been more important than it is now during the Covid 19 Pandemic. [Read the Full statement](#)

Primary Care website

COVID-19 Advice

Subscribe

### NHS health and wellbeing support for staff

## FOR INFORMATION

**General COPI Notice - patient data letter**

Please see the attached letter on patient data sent by  
**General Medical Advice and Support Team (GMAST)**  
NHS England & NHS Improvement - Midlands



C0069 - Final  
Biobank COPI notice - Note for UK biobank r



C0069 - Covering

## 4. Communications

Lincolnshire NHS COVID 19 update – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

### OVERVIEW

The past few weeks have been exceptionally challenging and intense for the NHS in Lincolnshire as we have responded to the immediate daily pressures, whilst also preparing for the weeks and months ahead.

Our NHS workforce has responded superbly, with professionalism, dedication and compassion in difficult and trying circumstances. We are sincerely grateful for all their hard work across the county, and are doing all we can to keep them safe, support them and work together as one NHS team.

Equally we are grateful for the extraordinary support of the public and all our partners. We will all continue to work closely and support each other.

As at 30 March, we have 88 positive cases of COVID-19 in the county. Lincolnshire currently has low rates compared to most other parts of the country, which gives us slightly longer to prepare for the anticipated increase in cases, but we are in no doubt as to how difficult the next period will be for us all.

Like other parts of the NHS in the country, in the past weeks we have experienced:

- Problems with availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff, and have worked hard to resolve these matters daily
- NHS workers needing to self-isolate to keep patients and colleagues safe. At times more than 1000 staff have been self-isolating daily
- Big changes in volumes of patient demand – for example attendances at A&E and Urgent Treatment Centres have significantly dropped, whilst our telephone based Clinical Assessment Service has had a large increase in calls
- A lot of innovative working to maintain good patient care, for example many GP practices have adopted virtual solutions to provide care over the phone, email, video – and many Care Homes are adopting similar technologies

We are looking forward to supporting the mobilisation of COVID-19 testing for NHS workers, which will be of great benefit to staff and the service in Lincolnshire.

The NHS in Lincolnshire has already had to make a number of changes to cope with the COVID-19 emergency and these are highlighted below. It is likely that further changes may be required in the weeks and months ahead.

- With effect from [22 March 2020](#), **ULHT has suspended patient visiting at Boston, Lincoln and Grantham hospitals**, as part of its efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus, and to protect its patients and staff. The only exceptions to this are the maternity department will allow one birthing partner to attend, and parents who do not show the symptoms of infection can visit their children, all other visits are by exception only and typically will be granted on compassionate ground agreed in advance with the nurse in charge of the ward;
- Following confirmation that **car parking at its sites will be free for visitors** from [Thursday 26 March](#) (see above for clarification re who can visit), ULHT has also now confirmed that staff car parking will be free from Wednesday 1 April 2020 until at least Friday 31 July 2020

- this is across Lincoln, Boston and Grantham hospitals;
- ULHT also confirmed that from [Tuesday 24 March 2020](#) **all routine elective surgery is being postponed**. This move is being made by as part of ULHT’s response to covid 19, and will enable hospitals to free up staff to care for patients in other areas
- **LCCHS has suspended all visiting to its community hospital wards** with effect from [Tuesday 24 March 2020](#)
- **LCCHS has also confirmed revised opening hours for walk ins at Skegness and Louth Urgent Treatment Centres** with effect from [Saturday 22 March 2020](#)
- **LPFT has also suspended patient visiting** with effect from [Monday 23 March 2020](#), this covers all inpatient mental health wards in Lincoln, Grantham and Boston
- **Lincolnshire has bolstered its commitment to mental health wellbeing** with the launch of a [new confidential mental health and emotional wellbeing helpline](#), available via 0800 001 4331. A joint initiative across health and social care – including Lincolnshire County Council – and the third sector, the helpline provides a 24/7 source of emotional support, advice and guidance for people feeling low, anxious or stressed
- **Often the unsung heroes, NHS housekeeping and hospital catering staff have a vital role to play**. Following the redeployment of some of its existing staff, ULHT issued a press release on [24 March 2020](#) to put out a call for temporary staff to support catering and domestic work, which resulted in it receiving around 200 emails from interested people, and it is now in the process of adding them to its bank staff. The NHS in Lincolnshire has partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to ensure the county’s restaurant workers are aware of this need
- **[Your NHS needs you](#) – the NHS is “rallying the troops” for the war on coronavirus**, with volunteers being called up to help vulnerable people stay safe and well at home. Please help us to promote this – members of the public can sign up quickly and easily here <https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHS>
- **NHS Blood and Transport is working with the rest of the NHS to keep supplying lifesaving blood to hospitals during the coronavirus pandemic.**

**We would like to remind everyone that:**

- Travel to donate blood is classed as essential travel.
- We need people to keep donating blood as normal. Giving blood saves lives.
- If you are fit and well, please try to keep your appointment or book for the future.
- Visit [www.nhsbt.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk) for more information
- Donor centres are open, extra safety measures are in place, and staff are taking special measures to provide a clean and safe space for you to donate.

Public and staff should continue to follow government guidelines **around staying at home, washing your hands and social distancing**, to best protect the NHS.

**Stay home. Protect the NHS. Save lives**

You can stay in touch via our [NHS system website](#) and social media channels:

[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[Instagram](#)

## 5.Digital

### Procurement of Away From My Desk licences

- We are now in a position to move forward with a countywide procurement of Away From My Desk licences to support remote working.
- A form is going out today asking each practice for their requirements. We will need these completed and returned by COP Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April so that we can put an order in to the provider.
- The software will be installed remotely for all participating practices.
- More information about Away from My Desk can be found here <https://secure.awayfrommydesk.com/>
- If you have any questions please contact James Singleton [james.singleton1@nhs.net](mailto:james.singleton1@nhs.net)
- Many practices have been using AccuRX to support sms text messaging and mobile to mobile video consultations. This is freely available to use and is embedded in both EMIS and TPP SystemOne . More information here <https://www accurx.com/covid-19>

## 6.NATIONAL GUIDANCE

### Number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and risk in the UK – GOV.UK

- 78 confirmed cases Data from Public Health England at 12:17 BST 31 Mar 2020 in Lincolnshire.
- As of 5pm on 29 March 2020, 1,408 patients in the UK who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have died.
- The risk to the UK has been raised to high.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public?utm\\_source=1049975c-88d6-4f34-bc59-7f5e9f84a253&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate#number-of-cases](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public?utm_source=1049975c-88d6-4f34-bc59-7f5e9f84a253&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate#number-of-cases)

## 7.Contact

For all general primary care enquiries please contact : [lincsprimary.covid19@nhs.net](mailto:lincsprimary.covid19@nhs.net)

For all general pharmacy and prescribing enquiries please contact : [leccg.c19.lincsprescribing@nhs.net](mailto:leccg.c19.lincsprescribing@nhs.net)