

Local news, views and support for community pharmacy teams

Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex
Every two weeks | Issue 36 | 27 July 2020

It feels like July has been a month in which some sort of corner has been turned – a sense that we've moved into a new phase of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

Over the past weeks we have been thinking about the future with your LPC members and meeting new people who can help us achieve our goals – two important things that we are keen to do more of as we continue to move on. We also had to face a few new challenges which has helped us develop professionally and as an organisation too.

August is traditionally quiet, so the staff team will each be taking some time off and using the time to catch up on work-related tasks that have been neglected. What will you be doing?

You can read our latest updates on our [website](#) and follow us on Twitter: [@CPSS LPCs](#). Your on-site colleagues can also register to receive our bulletins and local round-ups [here](#)

LPC news

➤ **Easter and Christmas fees announced to 2023**

A revised local enhance service (LES) for Easter and Christmas opening across Surrey and Sussex has been announced.

The new LES is to commission pharmaceutical services for three hours on Christmas day and Easter Sunday for 2020 through to 2023. The focus of the scheme is ensuring adequate community pharmacy cover across East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey on these two key public holidays.

This scheme which has been developed jointly by the LPCs and NHS England's new south east regional team was announced earlier this month in a letter to all pharmacies from Mike Hedley, senior contract manager for our NHS region.

Contractors wanting to provide this LES will have to sign a formal agreement with NHS E that they will provide a full range of services these two days, and in return will receive £400 per hour for each three hour sessions (ie: £1,200 total per day).

Contractors need to [express an interest by completing this short form](#) before Friday 31 July 2020.

NOTE: Contractors working as part of a chain should speak to their area manager/head office before responding to this expression of interest

➤ **Flu planning**

Now that the government has confirmed plans to extend the annual flu vaccination programme to all over 50s, your LPCs have sought more conversations with CCGs about teamwork and working collaboratively at local levels to help meet local targets to vaccinate as many people as possible.

Last week, a statement from the Department of Health and Social Care said: "Once vaccination of the most 'at-risk' groups is well underway, the department will work with clinicians to decide when to open the programme to invite people aged 50-64, with further details to be announced".

PSNC has previously alerted pharmacy teams to the likely extension of the eligible cohorts for flu vaccination and is working with NHS England and NHS Improvement to finalise the service specification for this year's pharmacy flu vaccination service as quickly as possible.

Views

- Listen to Jeremy Vine on BBC Radio 2 talking earlier today (Monday 27 July) about community pharmacy with GP Dr Sarah Jarvis. *You'll need to search for the catch-up online, as it's Live as we prepare this week's newsletter.*

Support

➤ **Local information you need for PQS**

Two of the 14 essential criteria checklist for Part 1 PQS 2020/21 need local information:

- **Criteria 5:** Along with the national testing programme there is support locally for testing which can be found [here](#).
- **Criteria 8:** Local information for updating your Business Continuity Plan can be found [here](#).

➤ **Be aware of potential for increased numbers of people in Brighton and Hove next weekend (1-2 August)**

A Covid-19 friendly [Digital Pride celebration, FABULOSO](#), is planned for the weekend of 1-2 August by the organisers of the annual city wide celebrations. However, there are reports that some people are now organising unofficial Pride celebrations too, for the same weekend.

Pharmacy teams in the city need to be aware of the potential for increased numbers of people in the city next weekend and should plan ahead for any potential consequences.

➤ **New (or updated) on our website**

- **C:** Covid-19 rapid antibody tests (sales to the public)
- **D:** Deliveries: help to reinforce the message that the national pandemic delivery service is stopping on 31 July

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- **Issue 37 is due in two weeks in the week beginning 10 August.** What would you like to see in your next newsletter? Tell us at lpc@communitpharmacys.co.uk
- **Issue 3 of our *** NEW ***regular round-up with links to partners regular newsletters, press releases and assets will be distributed tomorrow (28 July)**
- **View [news archive](#)**

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Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex, The White House, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8BB