

Support for NHS community pharmacy contractors in Surrey and Sussex

Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex
LPC news special | 5 February 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of Coronavirus support for NHS community pharmacy contractors in Surrey and Sussex – with updates and practical local support from your LPCs.

In the same week as we learn that the rate is now lower in Brighton and Hove than the rest of Sussex, we also hear about the emergence of the South African variant in Woking, Surrey. It's proof that, on the one hand, things are looking positive and, on the other hand we may still have a bit of this journey to travel.

Stay safe and well and do keep checking your NHS Mail for official updates and announcements as well as NHS.UK, GOV.UK, PSNC and your professional institutions. We will focus our efforts and communications on how national guidance translates and impacts on us locally, whilst also cascading your concerns up to NHS England and/or PSNC.

Do keep in touch – there's more about the best ways to this below.

Practical local support

Updates, insight and current advice to help contractors across Surrey and Sussex

Pharmacy advice audit will give insight to help PSNC

PSNC data reveals 182 pharmacy advice audit returns from across Sussex and Surrey, the highest in the country to-date (4 February). This is 29% of our total number of contractors, which puts us 44th out of 69 LPCs (should there be a league table!).

- The deadline to complete and return the audit has been extended to today, Friday 5th February, to allow you the maximum opportunity to complete the audit. [Read more](#)
- The results of the audit will help PSNC in their negotiations with the NHS and DHSC, so is a vitally important piece of work.

C-19 vacs for frontline pharmacy staff in Sussex and Surrey

We're reminding all frontline pharmacy workers who live or work in Surrey and Sussex that they are now eligible for a vaccination, and urging anyone who has not been vaccinated to refer to the local information on our website and book an appointment as soon as they can.

On our website you will find the most up-to-date info made available to us, along with template letter for key workers who don't have ID and a portal for

Locum staff to register their details to ensure that they are put forward for priority vaccination as frontline health and social care workers. [Read more](#)

- Our vaccination information was last updated at 5.30pm yesterday (04/02/2021)
- Appointments are added regularly so please keep checking back if you can't get what you want on a booking system when you want it.

Snow and ice warning for Sussex and Surrey

The Met Office has issued a weather warning for snow and ice which includes Sussex and Surrey, saying falling temperatures combined with precipitation could make for treacherous conditions over the weekend. The warning which comes into force at 3pm on Saturday, February 6, is set to last until 11.59pm on Monday, February 8. [View full warning details and map view](#)

- Should an emergency affect your pharmacy and you need to implement operational changes you will find contact details on our website for community pharmacy's most important stakeholders to help you save valuable time. See and bookmark [B for Business Continuity](#)

We are currently dealing with a high volume of enquiries

Due to significant volumes of enquiries, it might take longer for the staff team to respond to emails and phone calls. We aim to respond to all e-mails and calls as soon as possible within 24 hours of receipt, and during our normal working hours (weekdays 9am to 6pm). You may find the help you need on our website:

- Details about [local NHS Covid-19 vaccination services for community pharmacy workers](#)
- [Advice and updates relating to local matters](#) in our A-Z OF ADVICE, HINTS & TIPS
- Locally commissioned services [payment protection during Covid](#)

If your query is about PQS / PCN / Lateral Flow (EOIs) / Becoming a C-19 vaccination site it would be helpful if you would email us at LPC@communitypharmacys.co.uk so that we can distribute workload equally amongst team members.

As always, if you to get in touch with us urgently, you have an option to telephone 01372 417726 to be put through to one of the team. Thank you for your patience.

Local representation

Here is a list of some of the people and organisations your staff team have contacted and/or spoken to directly on your behalf this week to promote pharmacy, help them understand pharmacy, try to resolve issues raised by contractors in Surrey & Sussex, or get clarity on very local situations

- All CCGs and both ICS (Integrated Care System)
- Individual contractors
- Journalists
- Local resilience forum
- Local government – three county councils, one city council and numerous Districts and Boroughs
- LPC members
- Medicines management teams
- Neighbouring LPCs

- NHSE& I regional contract managers
- Parking services
- PCN leads
- PNA (pharmaceutical needs assessment) leads
- PSNC
- Public health commissioners and contract managers
- Twitter – follow us @CPSS_LPCs

LPC meetings

Upcoming meeting dates are: West Sussex LPC 10 February, East Sussex LPC 11 February, Surrey LPC 23 February. By [responding to this short survey](#) you will be helping to influence the agendas and discussions at the next round of meetings.

Recent results

A lot of the issues we are faced with are complex and are taking time to resolve and/or negotiate

Car parking

A parking pass is available for community pharmacy workers to use during the Covid-19 crisis. The pass provides evidence of entitlement to free parking for those on duty as an NHS staff member, health or social care worker, or NHS Volunteer Responder and applies only to local authority-owned off-street car parks and on-street bays during the COVID-19 emergency response period. Terms and conditions of use apply and users must check for restrictions where they park in case there has been a stipulation of no parking or a restriction that the passes are not valid in certain areas.

- NHS community pharmacy contractors in Surrey and Sussex should email sandralamont@communitypharmacyss.co.uk if they would like the link to download a printable parking pass.

Asymptomatic testing contract roll-out on-hold in Surrey

Last week we reported that Surrey County Council (SCC) was commissioning around 50 community pharmacies to provide a regular testing service for individuals who need to work outside their home. Work to implement the service is on-hold while localised [surge testing](#) is underway following notification that a different variant of COVID-19 has been identified from positive tests cases within Woking and Egham. East Sussex and West Sussex LPCs continue to pursue their top-tier local authorities about a similar pharmacy provided service in these areas.

Other news in brief ... in case you missed it!

Serious shortage protocol (SSP) -

The latest information about SSPs (including supporting guidance), can be found [here](#) on NHSBSA website. PSNC has developed a number of [resources to support pharmacy teams in using these protocols](#).

No need to apply for, or pay for, a vaccine

Following the rise in the incidence of vaccine fraud, the NHS is issuing a fresh warning to patients to be on their guard against fraudulent messages as new scams are being sent to residents which look very similar to genuine texts being sent by GP practice vaccination teams. Public Health England has a variety of [social media creatives](#) to help combat this threat.

Please stick to social distancing irrespective of whether you've had vaccination ...

... This is the message you may see and hear across Sussex and Surrey as some local public sector organisations start to remind residents that the vaccine does not have an immediate effect, and that social distancing and lockdown rules are still in place for everyone to keep everyone safe.

Please remember to contact us using lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk, follow us on Twitter at [@CPSS LPCs](#) and to sign up to receive [PSNC news](#), if you haven't already.

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