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# Primary Care Connect

THE WEEKLY PRIMARY CARE UPDATE FOR  
HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Issue 7 | 7 July 2021

Dear colleagues,

This week we said a happy 73rd birthday to the NHS.

I wanted to reiterate my thanks to everyone working in primary care as you continue to work hard and adapt at this time.

You will have seen that from July 19, all COVID-19 restrictions are due to be lifted in England.

As further guidance comes out we will ensure you are kept up-to-date.

It has been a challenging and often emotional 18 months and so it's important we do all take time to stop and breathe. It's important to reflect on the amazing achievements we have delivered together in primary care - and so that's



why I want to [relay my gratitude](#) to you once again.

Thank you.

**Dr Nicola Decker**

**Clinical Leader**

**Hampshire Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG, working with Portsmouth as we become an Integrated Care System**

## Contents

### Requires action

[Changes to NHS asymptomatic staff testing](#)

[Acceleration of second COVID-19 vaccination doses](#)

[Covishield AstraZeneca vaccines update](#)

[Include your PCN COVID-19 vaccination clinic on the National Booking Service](#)

[Sinovac and Sinopharm update](#)

[Survey - improving communications to support practice staff](#)

### Resources and training

[Accessing GP services - download materials](#)

[Cardiovascular disease prevention - join the talk](#)

[Leadership Espresso: Leading Hybrid Teams in Primary Care](#)

[Learning Disability Champion training available](#)

[How to submit a story for the bulletin - we want your news!](#)

### For information

[COVID-19 Vaccination Autumn Winter Phase 3 planning](#)

[Home delivery of medicines and appliances during the COVID-19 outbreak June 2021](#)

**Changes to NHS asymptomatic staff testing**



NHS England has issued a change to the NHS staff asymptomatic COVID-19 testing programme.

On **5 July 2021**, the NHS moved to an individual 'pull' model of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) supply. This means that, from this date, staff will replenish their tests by ordering a box online from GOV.UK to be sent to them at home.

**For primary care this means:**

- Organisations will no longer order tests for their staff via the Primary Care Support England (PCSE) portal
- Staff can order their own tests online and input the postcode of their workplace to ensure the tests are registered as belonging to an NHS member of staff
- A box of seven tests will be posted to staff at their home address.
- Staff will continue to report the results of their tests on the gov.uk website as per current practice
- Organisations and regions will receive management information from NHS Test and Trace to help them understand what proportion of their staff have ordered and reported tests including contractor group and region

[You can read the letter from NHS England: NHS asymptomatic staff testing: Lateral flow device distribution and assuring compliance to testing regimes](#)

An [FAQ document](#) has been produced to give further information.

You can also read the [Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) standard operating procedure for use of lateral flow devices for asymptomatic staff testing](#)

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## Acceleration of second COVID-19 vaccination doses



On Monday (5 July) the government set out the latest guidance for [appointments for a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine](#) to be brought forward from 12 to eight weeks for the remaining people in all cohorts who have yet to receive their second jab.

This is to ensure everyone has the strongest possible protection from the Delta variant of the virus at the earliest opportunity possible.

In addition, the [Green Book guidelines for COVID-19 vaccine dosing intervals](#) have been updated (1 July) by Public Health England, in line with JCVI guidance.

PCN-led sites are being reminded that all remaining second dose appointments scheduled on or after July (where that is more than eight weeks after their first dose) should be brought forward.

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## Covishield AstraZeneca vaccines update



There have been some concerns raised in the media that EU countries will not recognise the validity of specific batches of the COVID-19 vaccine produced in India.

The Government has confirmed that no Covishield vaccines have been administered in the UK and that all AstraZeneca vaccines given in the UK appear on the NHS COVID Pass as Vaxzevria.

The NHS COVID Pass is the digital version of individuals' proof of COVID-19 vaccine status, which has been available for international travel since May.

The European Medicines Agency has authorised this vaccine and the Government is confident that travel will not be affected.

The EU Digital Covid-19 Certificate is currently for EU citizens only, or third country nationals legally staying or resident in the EU.

Information for patients about how to get an online or paper version of the [NHS COVID Pass](#) is on the NHS website.

**Promotion of COVID-19 vaccination walk-in clinics**

We are continuing to add details of walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics across [Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to the Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG website](#).

**We would be grateful if you could share dates and times of your upcoming walk-in clinics and we will add these as soon as possible.**

Please do email details of your walk-in vaccination clinics to [Clare Semke](#).

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## **Include your PCN COVID-19 vaccination clinic on the National Booking Service**



There is an opportunity for PCNs to go on the National Booking Service (NBS). This would allow you to put clinics on the national system for the general population to book.

These appointments would then be available to everyone accessing the NBS and not just to your PCN lists. This may help in booking in the younger adults and using the remaining first dose vaccine before the **July 25**.

We are looking for practices who are willing to move forward with this next week. If you are interested, please can you let your primary care lead know and copy in [Kevin Wilkins](#) by **midday on Friday 9 July**.

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## Sinovac and Sinopharm update



Following the confusion about the Chinese COVID-19 vaccination, advice was sought from the Regional Lead Clinical Pharmacist, and this was the response we received:

The PHE guidance was updated yesterday. For Sinovac and Sinopharm:

**If vaccinated with 1 or 2 doses:**

- provide 1 dose of UK approved vaccine 8 weeks after previous dose
- enrol for booster in UK if introduced

**If vaccinated with 3 doses:**

- no further immediate vaccine needed
- enrol for booster in UK if introduced

So, three doses in total, plus booster if in an eligible cohort when the booster programme starts.

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## Survey - improving communications to

## support practice staff



The Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group's Communications and Engagement team wants to hear from you!

We want to ensure communications resources are coming to you in a timely way and we cover the key topics you are faced with.

We want to know what help is valued by you, what additional support is needed and what communications channels you have, so that we can support in the best way possible.

Some of you may have already [seen this survey](#) - if you have then no need to fill it in twice - but if not, we would appreciate if practices could take a few minutes to fill it in and return to [hsiccg.gportal@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.gportal@nhs.net) by **Friday 23 July**.

The insight is invaluable in helping us to ensure we are supporting you to address the communications challenges you face.

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## Accessing GP services - download materials



This is a reminder that to help support practices with public-facing messages that GP services remain open for business, a package of social media images and accompanying text has been created:

- [GP reception desk open editable poster](#)
- [GP reception desk closed editable poster](#)
- [Social media posts GP reception desk](#)
- [Facebook posts GP receptions open](#)
- [GP access Facebook](#)
- [GP access Twitter](#)

Please email any feedback/comments on the above resources, or any specific requests to [hsiccg.gportal@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.gportal@nhs.net)

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## Cardiovascular disease prevention - join the

## talk



The CCG Medicines Optimisation team's work plan has a focus on the prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD), in line with the NHS Long-Term Plan.

Why? Preventing heart attacks and strokes at scale could save thousands of lives. Cardiovascular related diseases currently account for 25 per cent of deaths under the age of 75 and contribute to major health inequalities.

The Eastleigh North, Test Valley South and Eastleigh Southern Parishes Medicines Optimisation Group will be holding its July meeting on **Friday 9 July** from 1pm to 2.15pm on MS Teams.

The group will be welcoming as keynote speaker Helen Williams (National Specialty Adviser for CVD Prevention and Project Manager at UCLPartners), on the subject of Optimising the Treatment of Hypertension in Primary Care.

The focus of the talk will be on choice of medicines to manage hypertension and the use of new models of care in general practice.

All healthcare professionals are invited to attend. To join, or to put your questions to Helen, please email [Liz Corteville](mailto:Liz.Corteville).

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## Leadership Espresso: Leading Hybrid Teams in Primary Care



The NHS Leadership Academy is hosting a virtual workshop to provide some protected 'headspace' and 'thinking time' for busy practice managers, primary care practitioners and other key primary care colleagues.

In the workshop you will be encouraged to consider thought-provoking ideas, share views, discuss issues with colleagues, reflect on your own practice, apply your learning to your own context and ask any questions you have.

It takes place on **Tuesday 13 July** from 9.30am to 11am.

The session will be virtually delivered on Zoom. For more information and to book, [visit the Leadership Academy booking page](#).

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## Learning Disability Champion training available



Strategic health facilitators from Southern Health NHS Trust are offering another annual learning disability update for all primary care staff.

If you are a Learning Disability Champion from a learning disability friendly practice, then this free training will help you to meet one of the LD friendly criteria.

There are two dates to choose from:

- July 14, from 9.30am to 12.30pm
- September 15, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm

The sessions will be delivered by health facilitators, learning disabilities psychiatrist, learning disability community nurse and others.

If you cannot make these dates or you'd prefer more bespoke session, please get in touch with the Health Facilitation team.

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## How to submit a story for the bulletin - we

**want your news!**



Welcome to our new-look bulletin - we hope you are finding it useful!

If you have any content you would like to see included in Primary Care Connect then we would love to hear from you.

When you submit a story please provide the following:

- **A short headline**
- **A few paragraphs to say what the story is**
- **Clearly include any links or documents that accompany the piece**
- **A suitable image or a suggestion of the type of image to go with the piece**

Deadline for content is **midday Tuesday**. Items submitted after this will be considered as to whether it needs to be included in the following day's bulletin, or if it can be held for an extra week.

Please send content to [hsiccg.gportal@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.gportal@nhs.net)

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Primary Care Connect Portal

Wessex LMC

NHS England bulletin



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[hsiccg\\_gpportal@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg_gpportal@nhs.net)

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