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Primary Care Connect

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

Issue 18 | 01 October 2021

Dear colleagues,

The changes we have experienced in primary care have been profound, emotional and often felt like a roller coaster over the last 18 months; and they are shared equally by our patients.

As we work towards normality while continuing to do all we can to ensure the safety of our patients against the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic, we have resumed services with a more digital focus. However we need to ensure all our patients have supported access to medical services which may be delivered digitally, across both primary and secondary care.



I am looking at how we do that on the Isle of Wight in a group with our well established Age Friendly Group, Healthwatch, patients who are both digital and non-digital focused and primary and secondary care representatives.

We plan to audit practice websites on the island and ensure all teams follow best practice for their patients.

We will look at the process of e-Consult and see if we can simplify it for our older population. We plan to discuss with secondary care colleagues to ensure their digital access is user-friendly.

We will also develop some podcasts and other materials to help reassure patients that when they speak to us we are always carefully listening to their histories, and that if we need to see them, we most certainly will and we will continue to be there for them when they need us.

Dr Michele Legg
Clinical Director, Isle of Wight

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Recent BBC South Today coverage featuring

primary care



You may have seen recent coverage on BBC South Today featuring primary care as we continue to work to highlight your incredible ongoing efforts for patients and our communities.

On Tuesday South Today ran a feature piece on access to services across Hampshire and Isle of Wight, following a “day in the life” of Dr Matt Nisbet, Clinical Director at Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG and Partner at Crown Heights Medical Centre in Basingstoke.

Prior to this, on Friday 23 September, South Today covered the COVID-19 booster and flu jabs clinic at Festival Hall in Petersfield, interviewing patients and Dr Richard Kershaw, Clinical Director of South East Hampshire Primary Care Network (PCN) and Partner at Swan Medical Group in Petersfield.

Thank you to Dr Nisbet, Dr Kershaw, Emily Spalding, Practice Manager at Swan Medical Group and everyone who took part.

In the next days and weeks we will continue to develop supportive local media coverage – if you have any suggestions please do get in touch by emailing hsiccg.communications@nhs.net

A note from Mark Cubbon, Interim Chief Operating Officer, NHSE/I



Every health system in the world has faced a significant challenge in adapting their ways of working so that services are as safe as they can be during the pandemic. The way you and your teams continue to do this is impressive to say the least, and very much appreciated.

Effective infection prevention and control (IPC) measures remain essential to keep our patients and staff safe, while guiding our recovery efforts. I appreciate that striking this balance has been particularly difficult for you and your teams at times of high bed occupancy and competing capacity demands which we've seen through the summer.

Yesterday, the [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\)](#) published [new recommendations](#) for COVID-19 IPC measures, with a focus on elective care. Following a review of the national COVID-19 response and impact of [COVID control measures](#), it proposes – where capacity or efficiency can be improved – that acute care providers consider relaxing three of the COVID-19 control steps in elective services, provided infection rates and local risk assessments demonstrate this can be managed safely.

[Our letter](#) highlights the recommendations and [UKHSA's](#) detailed guidance explains how and when these may be applied:

- [Enhanced cleaning procedures may be stepped down](#) to pre-COVID-19

standard cleaning processes in agreed low-risk areas, subject to risk assessment.

- [Changing the pre-procedure testing requirement](#) before elective procedures or planned care for selected low-risk patients who may take a lateral flow test on the day of the procedure.
- [Reduce physical distancing](#) in low-risk elective pathways where patient access can be controlled, from 2m to 1m, in line with [World Health Organisation](#) advice.

I know from conversations with many of you that you welcome the flexibility these options offer, and of course you and your teams are best placed to decide whether these would be appropriate, using the criteria provided by UKHSA and making decisions with staff that are based on detailed risk assessments.

This is not a blanket lifting of COVID-19 control measures and the suggested changes do not apply to COVID-19 high-risk patient pathways including urgent and emergency care pathways. Understandably, however, staff and patients may worry and being clear about measures remaining in place will provide vital reassurance.

We know the coming months will bring additional challenges and your continued focus on IPC best practice will be critical to reducing risks of nosocomial infections and avoiding extra pressure on our teams through absence. PHE's current IPC guidance is being revised ahead of winter and will incorporate the UKHSA's recommendations. We will share updates as and when they happen. In the meantime, please email our team if you need further support: nhseandnhsi.ipc-cell@nhs.net.

**Boost your immunity: health and social care
worker materials**



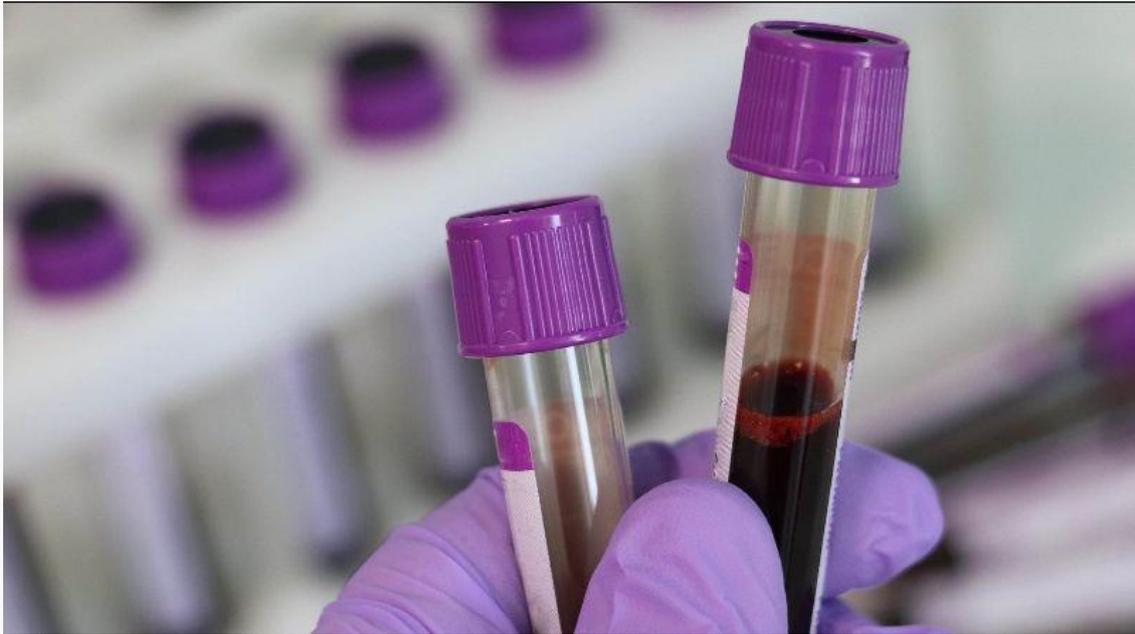
Orders for printed health and social care worker materials to support this year's flu and COVID-19 booster campaigns as part of the wider autumn and winter plan have been open on the Campaign Resource Centre for a number of days. To order printed materials [please click here](#).

Digital versions of assets are also now available for download with NHS assets available [here](#) and CARE assets available [here](#).

Assets include:

- A4 Posters
- DL leaflet
- A5 Q&A leaflet
- Stickers
- Email signatures
- Social media toolkit - including assets for Instagram, Twitter and Facebook
- Campaign toolkit - including brand guidelines
- Communications toolkit - including long and short copy

**Hampshire Hospitals blood sciences
newsletter**



Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) has produced a quarterly [blood science newsletter](#) giving updates on any key changes, helpful updates and a feedback section.

If you find this useful please let us know and if you have any suggestions for future content feel free to get in touch with Kirsty.Gordon@hhft.nhs.uk, samantha.jones73@nhs.net or marianne.cairley@nhs.net .

**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.gpportal@nhs.net

Primary Care Connect Portal

Wessex LMC

NHS England bulletin



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