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# Primary Care Connect

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

Issue 31 | 5 January 2022

Dear colleague,

When the Government announcement was made that all adults would be offered a COVID-19 booster jab by the end of 2021 it sounded like a huge mountain to climb.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our primary care teams and colleagues in mass vaccination sites, outreach/roving services, hospital hubs and community pharmacies this tremendous target has been achieved. It has been a true system effort.

As of New Year's Eve 1,005,487 booster jabs had been given to people in our communities to help keep them and others across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safe. As of this morning we've given boosters to 80.7% of our eligible population.



across our communities in recent weeks.

We are hugely grateful to all of our colleagues, partners and volunteers for their efforts in helping to ensure as many people as possible are protected against the virus.

As we enter 2022, the ongoing challenges that COVID-19 presents unfortunately remain with us.

This is one of the reasons why the vaccination programme continues to remain a priority. As we know, receiving a booster jab gives people the best chance to not develop serious illness and hospitalisation as a result of COVID-19.

The next phase of the programme will focus on delivering second doses to 12-15 year olds, redoubling our efforts to reach people who may have chosen not to come forward before (including for first and second doses) and planning for the vaccination of 5-11 year olds.

Thank you to each and every one of you who are helping deliver the vaccination programme and those of you back in practices who are continuing the day to day work which is so important to our communities.

**Best wishes**

**Dr Matt Nisbet, COVID-19 vaccination programme lead, Hampshire and Isle of Wight**

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### For information

Information on the Government's additional COVID-19 advice for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk

Increase in sexually transmitted extensively-drug resistant Shigella sonnei in men in England

Walk-ins now available for people aged 12-15 at three Hampshire and Isle of Wight vaccination centres

## How staff can access COVID-19 tests



Here is a reminder of how to access tests if you or a member of your team have COVID-19 symptoms, or have been in close contact with a positive case.

If you do not have symptoms, please use the national system to order a Lateral Flow Test (LFT).

If you have a critical shortage of LFTs (will impact service delivery in 48 hours or sooner), contact your CCG primary care lead with the below information:

- Name of organisation
- Ability to collect – collection is preferred due to constraints in ability to deliver

- Full address and delivery details
- Key point of contact and contact details
- Number of tests required (one week supply)
- Delivery restrictions (if any), including possible delivery times

Primary care leads are able to arrange access to a small amount of contingency stock, so please only use this is absolutely necessary:

Isle of Wight - [hsiccg.iowprimarycare@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.iowprimarycare@nhs.net)

South East Hampshire - [fg-sehccg.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:fg-sehccg.primarycare@nhs.net)

Portsmouth - [PCCG.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:PCCG.primarycare@nhs.net)

South West Hampshire - [hsiccg.sw.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.sw.primarycare@nhs.net)

Southampton - [hsiccg.pccommissioning@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.pccommissioning@nhs.net)

North and Mid Hampshire - [hsiccg.nm.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:hsiccg.nm.primarycare@nhs.net)

If your LFT shows a positive result, then at present, you are then required to book a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

If you have one or more of the three main symptoms of COVID-19 then you will need to have a PCR test.

You can [order a PCR test/see what sites are available to book](#) a test via the national booking system. The site is refreshed with new information every 30 minutes so please keep trying if you are unable to book on your first attempt.

If you are really struggling to book a PCR test online and it is mission critical, then please contact your local primary care team on the above details for further support.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

From **11 January** in England, people who receive positive LFT for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. [You still need to report your result via GOV.UK.](#)

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. While levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFT results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test - these rules have not changed.

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## **Community Pharmacy Consultation Service update**



The Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG is currently in the process of purchasing the Emis GP Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS) referral add-on for our Emis practices.

GP CPCS service allows practices to refer patients with minor illnesses into local pharmacies, directly from within Emis.

Activation will follow in due course and could take up to three weeks.

More information will be published once Emis GP CPCS is ready to be implemented. For practices that use TPP, there is not an interface to be able to refer directly, you should continue to use the Ardens template and NHSmail until a solution is developed.

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**Fully-funded Health Education England**

## induction programme for Health Care Assistants



A fully-funded Health Education England induction programme for Health Care Assistants across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is available.

The three-day course is an opportunity for any new Health Care Assistants (HCA) working in General Practice to increase their skills and competencies in clinical practice.

The interactive two days will cover several core subjects and provide a competency framework for each area of learning to complete with mentorship back in the workplace.

In addition, each HCA who attends the course will receive their own personal development portfolio and induction framework that they can use as a working document to store their evidence of learning.

Following up on the two core days, there will be another opportunity to refresh and consolidate skills in a half day 'workstation' simulation.

The learning outcomes that can be achieved include:

- To work towards sign off for all taught clinical skills, with clinical observations
- To develop competency in physiological observations, ECG, stitches and staples removal, diabetes management and dementia awareness
- To devise an individualised plan of ongoing clinical development and have a comprehensive induction plan

The course takes place at the John Pound Centre, in Queen Street, Portsmouth, on 3 and 4 March. A follow up Zoom meeting takes place on 20 May.

## **How to submit a story for the bulletin - we want your news!**



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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