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Primary Care Connect

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

Issue 34 | 26 January 2022

Dear colleagues,

We are all aware of the impact the pandemic has had on mental health, including children and young people.

Currently one in six children aged 5-16 years identifies as having a mental health problem and 80% of young people with mental health needs agree that the pandemic has made their needs worse.

We are seeing the impact of this on a daily basis in primary care. Many do not reach the CAMHS threshold and need support from other services. [Here is a list of helpful resources we can use to support our patients by service and location.](#)



Best wishes

Dr Clare Harris - Clinical Director for Children and Families covering South West and

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Ordering FFP3 masks in general practice



As per the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) letter, which came earlier this month, practices will be able to order FFP3 masks if local risk assessments show they are required to help keep staff and patients safe.

The risk assessment identifies the potential risk of transmission despite all other Infection Prevention Control (IPC) precautions being in place, such as ventilation, room size and screening of patients.

Practices must undertake a local risk assessment that identifies that the potential risk of transmission remains insufficiently unmitigated despite all other IPC precautions being in place.

Practices will be able to order FFP3 masks through the DHSC portal where local risk assessments have been undertaken and recorded AND where fit testing has either taken place, or will take place as part of bringing an order into use.

With regard to FFP2 versus FFP3 masks, it is a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that FFP2 masks are also fit-tested in the same way as FFP3 masks. HSE also advises against the use of FFP2 unless we are in contingency measures as these provide a lesser filtration rate than FFP3. Therefore, we are providing FFP3s via the portal.

While Fit Testing is the responsibility of the employer, the Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG has some Fit tester training capacity and a small number of Fit testing kits. This is why the CCG would like to focus any resources available for practices identified as having a higher risk level following a local risk assessment.

Practices are welcome to contact the CCG IPC team for advice on the completion of the risk assessment. The CCG has completed an example risk assessment to support practices in undertaking their risk assessment, however it is important to note that every practices risk will differ.

For practices all practices in Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight, who need further support please contact the seven-day IPC service on 08703 156601 or email HIOW.c19ipc@nhs.net

EMIS GP Community Pharmacy Consultation Service now live



The EMIS GP Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS) referral add-on for our EMIS practices is now live.

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

To support practices with this new functionality we have made available some support material:

- [Patient Access Connect Guide](#)
- [CPCS Flows - Phase 1 - Citizen Walks In to GP](#)
- [EMIS GP slides](#)

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.

COVID-19 vaccination programme helpline helps people find their nearest walk-in site



The Hampshire and Isle of Wight COVID-19 vaccination programme has launched a helpline to enable people to find their nearest walk-in or pop-up vaccination site.

Anyone can call the helpline, which is open seven days a week between the hours of 8am and 8pm and can be reached by calling 0300 561 0018.

Staff answering the phones will work with the caller to understand what they need, where they are and a time and date that suits them e.g. in the evening after work or a weekend, and then locate the nearest walk-in centre that can accommodate them.

In an effort to assist those to who might struggle with English as a first language or view their language skills a barrier to getting the vaccine, the helpline is investigating ways to

offer a translation service. Once this comes online we will notify colleagues immediately.

We have a number of [social media assets and posters available](#) that colleagues can download and use to promote the helpline.

Give A Vaccine charity posters for display



Campaign Give A Vaccine is asking if vaccination centres are able to display posters that encourage people to donate money to a global vaccination fund to help in countries where the vaccine isn't widely available.

The campaign encourages people receiving a vaccination to donate an equivalent sum to facilitate a vaccination for someone in a poor or deprived country.

Give A Vaccine also seeks to create a connection between the person being vaccinated in the UK and the one receiving the donated vaccine.

The money donated delivers vaccination programmes in ways such as funding for field vaccination centres, provision of transport to get people to vaccination centres in remote regions, advertising of the vaccine and education funding to overcome vaccine scepticism. The campaign has already facilitated vaccinations in Lebanon and Guinea and is keen to do more.

If you can assist, please print and display the A5 or A3 posters available for download.

Winter Wellness fortnight – all videos now on YouTube



Hundreds of NHS and Primary Care colleagues have taken part in a Winter Wellness campaign, aimed at helping people stay well this winter.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health and Wellbeing team hosted a series of healthy cooking classes with a local chef, live yoga sessions and talks on how to eat, menopause, sleep and exercise.

Videos from the two-week campaign are now available to watch.

Infection prevention control guidance to remain in primary care settings



Wear a mask or face covering



Wash your hands or use hand gel



Maintain social distancing

From Thursday 27 January (tomorrow), the Government is lifting COVID-19 restrictions which includes face coverings no longer being mandatory in public places.

While COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted in most public places, NHS England and Improvement want to remind primary care colleagues that the [UK Health Security Agency's infection prevention control \(IPC\)](#) guidance remains in place for all staff and patients.

This includes in GP practices, dental practices, optometrists and pharmacies to ensure that everyone is protected. Please continue to encourage patients to wear a face covering to keep staff and other patients safe.

To help practices share this message with their patients and communities, a number of updated assets are available for you to download and use:

[A4 poster design x 3](#)

[Twitter post design 1](#)

[Twitter post design 2](#)

[Facebook post design 1](#)

[Facebook post design 2](#)

You may wish to use the following wording to use alongside your social media post:

Suggested social media wording

As a GP practice, we care for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. To keep us all safe when you visit us, please continue to:

Suggested website wording

As a GP practice, we care for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. To help keep us all safe when you visit us, please continue to:

- Wear a mask or face covering (unless you are exempt)
- Wash your hands or use hand gel provided at the practice
- Keep a safe distance from others

We want to thank everyone for your continued support as we all work together to provide the best possible care and still keep you, and our staff, as safe as possible.

Thank you.

National resources

Resources supporting IPC guidance, including social media assets and posters to use at entrances to notify visitors that they need to wear a face covering, [are available to download from the Campaign Resource Centre.](#)

**New to Practice GP Fellowship and GP Early
Careers Mentoring Programme – apply now**



Are you a newly-qualified or early career GP in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight?

Have you considered adding to your wider personal development via a fellowship or mentoring programme?

Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICS and Health Education England's Wessex Primary Care Training Hub are now taking applications for the New to Practice GP Fellowship starting in March 2022 and the GP Early Careers Mentoring Programme (applications accepted on a rolling basis).

These programmes are open to anyone who meets the eligibility criteria - there is no limit on numbers.

They provide avenues both for ongoing support/mentoring post-CCT and for wider professional development.

For more information please [visit the GP Portal](#) or contact [Kerrie Messenger](#).

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.gpportal@nhs.net

Primary Care Connect Portal

Wessex LMC

NHS England bulletin



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