



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Vaccination as a condition of deployment FAQs

The LMC HR team have been reviewing the most recent developments in relation to mandatory vaccinations for staff delivering CQC regulated services with direct patient contact, and as a result have produced some [basic FAQs and answers](#), that we hope will be of use and interest to Practices.

Practices with any follow up queries should contact [Stevie Simpkin](#) HR Service Lead.

## LMC Vacancies

We have several GP vacancies available on the following committees:

- Lancashire Coastal LMC – Far North
- Morecambe Bay LMC – Barrow and Furness & South Lakeland
- Lancashire Pennine LMC – Blackburn with Darwen
- Cumbria LMC – Eden & Allerdale

If you work in the above areas and are interested in representing your constituents as a committee member, please get in touch [Mikaela](#).

## Face coverings in practice premises

On 19 January the Prime Minister announced that face masks will no longer be mandated, though people are still advised to wear coverings in enclosed or crowded spaces and when meeting strangers.

[IPC guidance for health settings](#) has not changed and states "Universal masking with face coverings or surgical masks (Type II or IIR) to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory infectious agents in health and care settings, as a source control measure, should continue to be applied for all staff, patients, and visitors"

Furthermore, [practices should carry out risk assessments](#) of their environments. Health and Safety law makes it your responsibility to protect staff and other patients based upon these risk assessments, thus making mask wearing a legal requirement if your risk assessment suggests masks should be worn.

If challenged by patients not wanting to wear a mask you can advise them of the [IPC guidance](#) and your risk assessments and inform the patient that "the law imposes on me the duty to expect you to wear a mask, and on you the duty to wear one in these premises"

Download the BMA [poster about using face coverings in practices](#).





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## COVID-19 vaccinations programme

### Extending the post-thaw expiry date of specific batches of Comirnaty® (30 microgram/dose)

After discussions with Pfizer Inc. and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), certain post-thaw expiry dates of unpunctured and undamaged Comirnaty (30mcg/dose) vials in batches detailed in this [NHSE/I letter](#) may be extended from 31 days to 45 days.

### Updated PGD and National Protocol for Spikevax (Moderna)

An updated [PGD and National Protocol for Spikevax](#) (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna) V05.00 have now been published.

## Global vaccine equity

The BMA is a leading voice calling for urgent action to ensure an equitable distribution of vaccines globally. They have written to the Prime Minister twice urging the UK to lead by example and do more to help poorer countries vaccinate their populations. They also published a [joint statement](#) with other unions and royal colleges in December expressing deep concern at the ongoing inequity in access to COVID-19 vaccines globally.

The BMA are also supporting the [#VaccinatetheWorld](#) campaign launched by a group of grassroots health care professionals, and senior leaders as a New Year's resolution for the UK. The campaign calls on doctors and the public to sign a [petition](#) and write a [letter](#) to their MPs (template provided). If you have a moment, please consider supporting this important action.

## National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021

NHSEI have confirmed that the [National Standard of Healthcare Cleanliness](#) is not a mandatory requirement in Primary Care. CQC acknowledge in their advice on [Infection prevention and control in General Practice](#) that it will continue to regulate in line with its own regulations and the existing Code of Practice.

## Getting ready for patients to have access to their GP health records

From April 2022, patients with online accounts such as through the NHS App, will be able to read new entries in their health records. This applies to patients whose practices use TPP and EMIS systems. Further information on the programme is available through the [NHS Digital website](#).

To help GPs, practice staff and primary care commissioners support patients to access their GP-held records, NHSEI have a [series of webinars](#) which explain what this means for you, and what you will need to do next to prepare for this.





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## Support & Development Service

We have merged our GP Support Scheme and Horizon Programme to offer you the Support & Development Service. This service is a free, confidential, and independent peer/ pastoral support service that we provide for all GPs and Practice Staff across Lancashire and Cumbria. This service is provided by GPs and Practice Managers.

As a GP or PM, you spend all your energy supporting others. This can mean that in challenging times or transitions you may be reluctant or too pressured to seek support or a fresh input. Likewise, roles in the admin team are like no other outside the NHS and the daily challenges are not always easy to meet. Therefore, a confidential chat with an empathetic colleague, with no bestowed interest, could make a huge positive difference to keep you in control of potential issues and/ or to keep you enthusiastic about your work. Whether you need support or a challenge to develop further, our service offers the opportunity for you to receive this from our mentors.

For more information of this free confidential peer support offer, please visit our [website](#).

## LMC HR Events

See our LMC HR training events for 2022:

- Disciplinary matters at work - 21 April
- Grievances at work - 17 May
- Effective Appraisals - 15 June
- Recruitment & Selection - 22 Sep
- Managing poor employee performance - 19 Oct
- Change management - 15 Nov
- Sickness Management - 8 Dec

For more information, please visit our [website](#) or get in touch with [Rebecca](#).

