



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

### **Trust GPs to lead: learning from the response to COVID-19 within general practice in England**

The results of the BMAs fifth and [sixth tracker survey](#) highlighted the scale of extra work being taken on by GPs during the pandemic, something that is continuing to increase. The new report, [Trust GPs to lead: learning from the response to COVID-19 within general practice in England](#), which was published last week, explores how these demands can be managed both in the short and long term.

The report sets out a range of solutions that will enable GPs and practices to manage the ongoing demands of responding to COVID-19 and looks at GPs being supported to continue delivering innovative patient-focused local services for both the short and long term. Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of the BMA GPC, has already had the opportunity to talk to the Health Minister, Jo Churchill MP, about their report and its recommendations.

Read the full BMA statement about the survey and the *Trust GPs to lead* report [here](#).

### **BAME doctors not being given access to COVID-19 risk assessments**

The BMAs [sixth tracker survey](#) showed that more than a third of BAME doctors in the UK are still not being given access to potentially life-saving COVID-19 risk assessments. The survey revealed that BAME doctors are still less likely to feel fully protected from coronavirus compared to their white colleagues (29% compared to 46%), and far more likely to often feel pressured into treating patients without the proper protective equipment (7% compared to 2.5%). Read the BMA statement [here](#).

The BMA have updated their [guidance on risk assessments](#) to include two new sections for practices looking at the implications of risk assessments and the risk assessment tools that are available to practices to use.

Read Dr Farah Jameel's, GPC England Executive Team member, [statement](#) reported by Pulse.

In response to Dr Richard Vautrey's letter to Simon Stevens earlier this month and lobbying on these issues, NHSEI have issued a [letter](#) which sets out that CCGs should commission an occupational health service to support practices with this risk assessment process. The LMC is actively pursuing this to ensure practices have clarity on what will be made available locally, as soon as possible.

### **GP Standard Operating Procedure updated**

NHSE/I have added two new sections to the [GP Standard Operating Procedure](#) and updated it with some additional information and links for ease of access. The updated sections are on:

1. Outbreak management in the context of COVID-19 – with a recommendation to review business continuity plans.
2. Suspected or diagnosed cancers, including ongoing cancer treatment – information on referral into secondary care.





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## Shielding update

The [Government has announced](#) that from Monday 6 July, the advisory guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people who are currently shielding from coronavirus will be eased and that they will be able to gather in groups of up to 6 people outdoors and form a 'support bubble' with another household. The guidance will be relaxed further in August, should the reduction in viral prevalence continue. In relation to this the Government has informed practices that it will [write](#) to those on the shielded list to make them aware of the updated guidance. Read the [Government's guidance on shielding](#) for patients.

The NHS will continue to maintain the Shielded Patient List in order to enable targeted advice and support to those who are most vulnerable should that be required in the future. Practices should, therefore, continue to add or remove patients from this list as is clinically appropriate. In addition, BMA GPC are talking to NHSEI about research being done that could refine the identification of those who are most at risk and would benefit from shielding should that necessary.

## The Healer in times of COVID: supporting each other through adversity

The BMA and NHS Practitioner Health are holding a [virtual conference](#) on Thursday 23 July 2020, 12.30 - 3.30pm to address the health and wellbeing of the health care workforce in the context of COVID-19. Chaired by leading experts, the conference will explore the impact of pandemics on the mental health and wellbeing of health care staff. By discussing the global impacts of the pandemic, and bringing together a vibrant community of professionals, lessons learned will be shared and collaborate to build a vision moving forward post-COVID-19. Join expert speakers and panellists including Professor Neil Greenberg, Dr Michael Myers and Anna Soubry. Register your place at this free event [here](#).

## Indemnity arrangements for NHS Primary Care staff undertaking COVID-19 antibody tests

NHSE/I has now confirmed that where primary care staff undertaking COVID-19 antibody tests are not covered for this activity under their existing indemnity/insurance arrangements, they will be indemnified under the [Clinical Negligence Scheme for Coronavirus \(CNSC\)](#) which was established in accordance with new powers from the Coronavirus Act 2020. NHS Resolution has added an [FAQ](#) which states:

*Where you are appropriately trained and competent to undertake this activity, and you are not covered for this activity under your existing indemnity/insurance arrangements, you will be indemnified under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Coronavirus (CNSC). The CNSC has been established by NHS Resolution to meet liabilities arising from the special healthcare arrangements being put in place in response to the coronavirus outbreak.*

*Antibody testing undertaken in NHS trusts will be covered under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts. Further information on the rollout of the antibody testing programme is set out in NHSE/I letter on 25 May 2020.*

Read all the FAQs on the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Coronavirus [here](#)





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## BMA COVID-19 guidance

The BMA continue to regularly update their [toolkit for GPs and practices](#), which should help to answer many questions on a large range of topics relating to COVID-19. There is also guidance on the following topics:

- [Model terms of engagement for a GP providing temporary COVID-19 services](#)
- [Terms and conditions for sessional GPs](#)

For further information, see the BMA's [COVID-19 Webpage](#) with all the latest guidance including links to the BMA's [COVID-19 ethical guidance](#) and [priorities for easing lockdown](#).

## Professional Postgraduate Study for the Medical Team – University of Central Lancashire

The School of Medicine at UCLan offers a range of [postgraduate and professional programmes](#) to upskill and strengthen the medical team. Please see the above link for more information.

## BMA issues holiday guidance ahead of domestic tourism return

Following the [guidance](#) issued by GPC England about the support practices can continue to offer their patients when travelling on holiday this year in order to support colleagues in tourist areas, the BMA has issued further advice and public health information for the public.

The BMA's public messaging campaign urges people to:

- Don't travel if you're ill, or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. cough, high temperature, loss of smell or taste)
- Have a plan for self-isolation if you, or anybody in your 'bubble', develops symptoms or are told to do so by the official NHS Test and Trace service. You will likely be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If you take medicines prescribed by your doctor, make sure you have enough with you to last for your time away
- Practise good social distancing and hand washing while you are away from home
- Wear a face covering whenever you are mixing with others outside your 'bubble' and cannot social distance, particularly when you are indoors.

To read more about the principles [see PDF here](#)

## LMC HR updated topics

The following HR topics have been updated for your information:

- [LMC HR Template Policy Handbook 2020](#)
- [Freeths FAQs on COVID](#) - The update reflects the announcements made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 that 'lockdown', shielding and social distancing rules will be relaxed.

