



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

30th March 2021

COVID-19 vaccination programme

There will be a [reduction of supply](#) of COVID-19 vaccinations from this week for about four weeks due to reductions in national inbound vaccines supply. BMA GPC have been told that this should not impact the delivery of second doses. Vaccination sites are encouraged to continue their efforts in maximising uptake in cohorts 1-9 which are yet to be vaccinated.

A statement from JCVI is expected shortly on details relating to the next phase of vaccination for groups 10-12.

FAQs for second doses

NHSE/I has published some [FAQs to help answer some questions relating to second doses of the COVID-19 vaccination](#), including location of second doses, interval period and consent.

Quality Assurance Framework and SOP for lateral flow devices for COVID-19 vaccination sites

NHSE/I has published a [Quality Assurance Framework for COVID-19 vaccination sites](#), to use as a tool aligned to the operating frameworks and standard operating procedures underpinning the delivery models for these settings.

NHSE/I has also published a [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\) for usage of lateral flow devices for asymptomatic NHS staff testing](#) at vaccination sites.

COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy

There has been some confusion around the eligibility of pregnant women for the COVID-19 vaccine. While it is not currently available to all pregnant women, those who are at high risk of exposure to the virus, including health and care workers, or with high risk medical conditions *are* eligible. This includes women diagnosed with gestational diabetes in pregnancy or those with a BMI of more than 40 at their antenatal booking appointment.

The benefits and risks of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy should be discussed on an individual basis. The discussion should include acknowledgement that, while there is no known risk associated with giving other non-live vaccines to pregnant women, there are no specific data as yet about the safety of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy. More information including FAQs and a decision aid are available from the [RCOG website](#).

In addition, the National Clinical Director for Maternity and Women's Health, and the Chief Midwifery Officer, have published a [letter setting out actions for maternity services to identify and invite pregnant women for vaccination](#), and enabling them to make an informed choice about receiving it.





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A HR perspective of getting home workers and shielders back into Practice

Following on from last week's brieflet where we mentioned the changing of shielding guidance, the LMC HR service have drawn up the **attached** guidance.

Medical assessments for prospective foster carers and adopters

Last week, BMA GPC published a [joint statement](#) with the Royal College of GPs, to support GPs in considering requests for medicals for prospective adopters and foster carers. These assessments play an important role in safeguarding vulnerable children and are the final requirement for many families across the country.

Annual allowance voluntary scheme pays 2018/19 deadline extension

In a previous brieflet we provided information on the annual allowance repayment scheme, which was introduced in England and Wales. The scheme guarantees any annual allowance tax charge in 2019/20, for eligible clinicians will be compensated for at the time of retirement. The deadline for submitting an application form for the scheme for GPs who have or who are planning to retire by 31 March 2021, has been extended to 31 March 2021. For detailed advice on the scheme, please click [here](#).

BMA moral distress survey

The BMA has launched a [survey on moral distress](#), open to all UK doctors, including retired doctors, although it is not aimed at medical students. The survey will remain open until Sunday 11 April.

The survey asks about your understanding of moral distress and moral injury, whether you have come across these terms before or have experienced them. The impact of COVID-19 and potential solutions are also considered. The findings will be used to make recommendations and allow the BMA to help mitigate this problem throughout the UK's medical workforce.

Take the survey, and read more about moral distress and how it impacts doctors, [here](#).

LMC Elections

As mentioned in last week's Brieflet the LMC has now concluded its election process. The elected members have been informed and our new committees are looking forward to meeting in April (via Teams!). We will shortly be writing out to inform constituents of their new committees.

