



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

The Prime Minister made an announcement regarding Covid-19 confirming that the UK has officially moved from containment into delay phase:

- Anyone with a new persistent cough and/or fever should self-isolate for 7 days; do not call 111 or contact other healthcare providers.
- If symptoms deteriorate and they feel they need medical care - contact NHS 111.
- There is no need to identify/test every case – testing will only be done for those in hospitals with symptoms.
- There are no geographic limits.
- All school trips abroad will be banned.
- Those aged over 70 with pre-existing medical conditions are advised not to go on cruises.
- When we near the peak (potentially by the end of May) whole households will self-isolate if one member has symptoms. This will be enacted closer to the time.
- The Government is considering banning major events (but not yet in place).

It is likely people will contact NHS 111 and/or their practice. NHS 111 will increase capacity to deal with the inevitable increase in demand until the new advice has bedded in. If patients call the practice concerned they might have Covid-19, they should be provided with the latest advice, which is to self-isolate for 7 days and if their symptoms worsen, they should contact NHS 111. If a patient presents with symptoms, they should be advised to self-isolate for 7 days. The advice from Government is to go to [NHS 111 online](#) first and **not to call**.

Please see attached document which we received from Cambridge LMC regarding advice they are giving their practices on **communications to patients and how to protect practice staff**. Cambridge LMC has shared the information as a resource to all of us. Please feel free to adapt this guidance as it fits to your local circumstances. If you have any queries or concerns, please let us know.

[The BMA COVID-19 webpage](#) is updated daily with guidance and links to official information:

- [PHE guidance for primary care](#)
- [NHS England guidance for primary care](#) (including a [letter on preparedness](#) sent on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, previous [letter on preparedness](#) and [commissioning guidance](#) on suspension of online appointment bookings).

Read a joint statement from the Chief Medical Officers, GMC, and NHSE/about Supporting doctors in the event of a Covid-19 epidemic in the UK [here](#).

Read [guidance on data protection and coronavirus](#), from the Information Commission Office.

In Northern Ireland, it has been agreed to suspend QOF and enhanced services suspension indefinitely. The BMA are in active discussion with NHSE/I about how best to support practices and information should be available about this shortly.





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NHSE/I have written to CCGs asking them to extend the out-of-hours provider contracts in England to cover 24 hours, to support patients who have tested positive but who do not require immediate admission and are self-isolating.

**Immediate Cessation of Routine CQC inspections:** CQC has written the attached highlighting that they will be stopping routine inspections from today - **Monday 16 March**. See the latest [CQC web page](#).

## LMC Training Events & Roadshows

In light of the emerging COVID-19 crisis all meetings and events have been postponed until further notice.

## NHSmail for locums in England

[NHSmail for locums in England](#) was launched on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March after lengthy lobbying by the BMA GPs committee and Sessional GPs committee. Benefits of having an NHSmail include being able to share patient data with NHS colleagues and allowing locum GPs to be added to local distribution lists. This will enable locum GPs to keep up to date on local, regional and national issues. If you are a GP locum, you can now apply for an NHSmail account by completing this [form](#).

## CHP Practices

The LMC have recently met with CHP and we would like to reiterate our advice to practices that they should pay the reimbursable element of rent without any exceptions. If there are any disputes over the service charges then we will be working with practices and CHP to resolve these issues.

Please contact [Abigail](#) if you have any questions. She will be contacting practices directly who are already in communication with the LMC over ongoing disputes.

## Submission of estimates of pensionable earnings

NHSE have advised that a proportion of practices have still to submit the mandatory 'NHS Pensions - Estimate of GP and non-GP Provider NHS Pensionable Profits/Pay: 2020/21' forms. As the 1 March 2020 deadline for submission has passed, practices are advised to complete this as soon as possible. PCSE have been advised by NHS Pensions from April 2020 to deduct the contributions at the 14.5% maximum tiered rate regardless of previous contribution rates if they do not have the estimate. This will impact on practices resulting in the higher deductions being made. Forms are available from the NHSBSA [website](#) and via PCSE [online](#).

