



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 24th August 2021

COVID-19 vaccination programme

Vaccinating 12-15 year olds with underlying health conditions

Following the advice from the JCVI that those aged 12–15 years with specific underlying health conditions that put them at risk of severe COVID-19 should be offered two doses of the Pfizer vaccine with an interval of eight weeks between doses, NHSE/I has published a [letter](#) outlining the actions practices should take to help identify eligible 12-15 year olds (cohort 13) to ensure they are offered a COVID-19 vaccination appointment by 23 August 2021.

The letter includes a template letter for practices as well as a link to updated [FAQs on Vaccinating children and young people](#)

Vaccinating 16-17 year olds by 23 August

The [government has now also announced](#) that all young people aged 16 to 17 in England should be offered a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by Monday 23 August to give them protection before returning to school. Read the NHSE/I [letter](#) which outlines details of the amended enhanced service specifications to incorporate 16 and 17 year olds into cohort 12.

New and updated COVID-19 national protocols

The following new or updated COVID-19 national protocols and PGDs have been published:

The updated [PfizerBioNtech mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 National Protocol v04.00](#)

The new [Comirnaty COVID-19 mRNA vaccine National Protocol](#) v01.00

The updated [PfizerBioNtech mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 PGD](#) (v04.00)

NHSE/I will also be publishing the new Comirnaty PGD v01.00 shortly.

Updated PHE guidance on NHS staff self-isolation and return to work following COVID-19 contact

As of 16 August 2021 the government has changed the requirements to self-isolate following a positive COVID-19 contact, and PHE has updated its [guidance on how this changed will impact NHS staff and students working in the NHS](#)

Fully vaccinated staff and students who are identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case will no longer be expected to isolate and will be expected to return to work, after a number of safeguards have been implemented, such as a negative PCR test prior to returning.





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It's important to remember that the updated guidance applies only to people who have the infection but are not showing symptoms. Anyone who develops symptoms should still self-isolate and end isolation only following a negative PCR test.

Support Your Surgery Campaign

The BMA have launched their latest campaign – Support Your Surgery. This follows the unfair criticism that has been levelled at general practice in the news and across social media over the last few months due to the way practices have had to work during the pandemic because of the necessary infection, protection and control measures. All too often this has resulted in GPs and their team members receiving abuse, as was highlighted in [The Doctor](#) magazine and through the BMA's widely reported latest [survey results](#).

To counter these perceptions and to put pressure on the Government to act to do more to support general practice, the campaign will provide practices with resources to help patients understand the reality of the issues facing general practice and to encourage them to join us in lobbying for the changes needed to address them.

Single Pathology Service webinar

A webinar is being held for GPs across the health economy to provide an update about the formation of a single pathology service for Lancashire and South Cumbria. The webinar will be hosted by Managing Director of the L&SC Pathology Service, Mark Hindle and Clinical Director, Professor Anthony Rowbottom. They will provide an update on the progress to date which has included the development of an outline business case with 'hub and spoke' being chosen as the future delivery model and a site for the Hub being identified. The session will provide an overview of the current priority workstreams and associated timescales. Time will be built into the session for questions and answers.

Please get in touch for joining details of this meeting.

GP Support Scheme

The GP Support Scheme is a free confidential independent counselling service offered to all GPs in Lancashire & Cumbria. It provides pastoral support to all GPs who are experiencing problems such as stress, career or partnership issues, addiction, or general unhappiness/burn-out. Find out more [here](#).

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