

28 April 2020

For general practice in Kent and Medway

COVID-19 Update 13

This update is provided by Kent and Medway CCG to provide information to help practices deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any feedback or ideas to make the Updates more useful to you please email wkccg.gpscovid19@nhs.net.

Highlight:

Can one person from each practice please fill in this week's sitrep survey by **11:00am on Thursday 30 April**. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/62MD2B7>

The information in these updates is up to date when sent out but it is always important to check that this reflects the most recent guidance by following links. The NHS guidance for primary care can be found [here](#).

Referral Advice

We are aware that the major changes to referral processes are making it very difficult for general practice to operate. We are producing a special edition with referral information. By putting it all in one place and separate from other advice we thought it would be more useful to you. We intend to send this out this week.

We acknowledge this is a difficult time for all those staff working in primary care and we would like to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication in this challenging time.



Caroline Selkirk



Navin Kumta

Information Sources

Primary care weekly sitrep survey

Thank you for filling in last week's survey.

You will see from the attached weekly summary (entitled: K&M Primary Care COVID-19 Highlight Report 200420) that completing the survey means we can all have a wider understanding of the situation across Kent and Medway. It also allows your local primary care teams to easily identify where individual practices may benefit from some focussed support. For instance, we have been able to contact and help practices with some specific IT and PPE issues after they identified difficulties when filling in the survey.

It also means we can help more of you across a wider area or with common issues. Specific issues highlighted by practices in the last SitRep regarding IT, workforce and PPE were escalated to the relevant CCG teams to help resolve them.

Can one person from each practice please fill in this week's sitrep survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/62MD2B7>

If you could please complete the sitrep by **11:00am on Thursday 30 April**, your response can then be reflected in our weekly summary. Thank you.

Data dashboard

Last week, in collaboration with the NHS, Public Health England published a [COVID-19 dashboard](#) which presents local authority data and shows confirmed cases by specimen date (the date the test was taken) rather than reporting date (the date the laboratory reported the test).

Upcoming Webinars

30 April from 5-6pm on primary care: to attend on MsTeams follow this link [primary care webinar](#). Dr Nikki Kanani NHSE/I GP and Medical Director for Primary Care and Ed Waller NHSE/I Director for Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts will lead with a focus on an extended Question and Answer session.

7 May from 11am on homelessness: visit this link [homeless health webinar](#) to register.

Details of webinars available here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/other-resources/webinars/>

The impact of COVID-19 on people from black and minority ethnic communities

A [new briefing](#) from the NHS Confederation's black and minority ethnic (BME) Leadership Network considers the evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on black and minority ethnic communities and health and care staff. It explores potential underlying factors, recommends areas for improvement, and offers practical advice on how to mitigate risks. It follows mounting concerns over the disproportionately [high number of BME health and care staff among coronavirus deaths](#).

Clinical Advice

Kawasaki-like presentation and COVID-19

There has been recent media and social media coverage around the link between a Kawasaki-like presentation in children with COVID-19 disease. In response Prof Simon Kenny, the National Clinical Director for children and young people, said:

“Thankfully Kawasaki-like diseases are very rare, as currently are serious complications in children related to COVID-19, but it is important that clinicians are made aware of the potential emerging links so that they are able to give children and young people the right care fast.”

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) have published this advice: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news-events/news/college-responds-recent-reports-covid-19-children>

Infection Protection Control

Zoning

Primary Care Treatment Centres have been set up across Kent and Medway so that symptomatic patients can be separated and seen safely. However, in some cases it may become necessary for you to zone your facilities. We have attached some new guidance entitled: “Zoning in primary care to minimise the spread of COVID-19”. It is designed to help zone facilities safely so that patients with symptoms of COVID-19 can be offered face to face consultations while minimising the risk of the spread of infection to staff and patients without symptoms.

This guidance is designed as a tool to assist practices in carrying out their own assessment of their facilities and how they meet zoning requirements. The assessment can then be used to inform discussions within each practice, with the Primary Care Network (PCN), and the Kent and Medway CCG Infection Prevention Control team.

Home Visits

We have attached a new standard operating procedure entitled: “COVID-19 standard operating procedure GP home visits 280420”. It is designed to help GPs to conduct home visits safely so that patients with or without symptoms of COVID-19 can be offered face to face consultations while minimising the risk of the spread of infection to staff and people in the household without symptoms.

Testing

Information about coronavirus testing for essential workers in Kent and Medway has been added to the new Kent and Medway CCG website. It explains what this means for you, your colleagues and other essential workers. It gives details about how you can book a test, and how results are communicated.
<https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/your-health/coronavirus/coronavirus-testing-essential-workers>

Chest Compressions and Infection Prevention Control

NERVTAG (New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group) has reviewed the question as to whether chest compressions are classified as an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP). The government [has published their evidence review](#) that has advised that chest compressions and defibrillation (as part of resuscitation) are not considered AGPs. This means that first responders (any setting) can commence chest compressions and defibrillation without the need for AGP PPE while awaiting the arrival of other clinicians to undertake airway manoeuvres.

Based on the NERVTAG evidence review and consensus statement, chest compressions will **not** be added to the list of AGPs. It is strongly advised that there is no potential delay in delivering this life saving intervention when necessary.

Communications

NHS 'Open for Business' campaign

This new campaign has been created to help address the decrease in the number of people accessing NHS services for a range of conditions that are not related to coronavirus. It encourages people to access NHS services when they have a medical need (or have been asked to contact the NHS) and reassures them that they won't be a burden on the NHS.

Resources for download include:

- Strategy and key messages
- A4 campaign poster
- Social media assets
- Material for websites

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/nhs-resources-facilities/resources/open-for-business/>

Kent and Medway CCG will be using these to promote the need for people to continue to use the NHS and you may wish to as well.

Pharmacies

The NHS has also produced new public-facing digital 'poster' images and suggested post content for pharmacies to use on social media and in-pharmacy screens. These reinforce the following messages:

- Don't enter your local pharmacy if you or anyone you live with has coronavirus symptoms
- There's no need to order extra medicines
- Pharmacies are having to make changes to allow them to stay open during the pandemic.

These new materials can be downloaded [here](#) (as well as some materials for GPs that we have already highlighted) and will also be used in social media by the NHS and locally by Kent and Medway CCG. Please also consider using these campaign assets to get the message across on your websites and social media platforms.

The NHS has told us that they will be launching a public facing PR campaign to reinforce messages about pharmacies in early May.

Domestic Abuse Campaign

The Home Office is running a domestic abuse campaign, raising awareness of the support and advice currently available. They are grateful for all the support received so far from the NHS stakeholders and would appreciate if you could include a link on your website to the campaign page: gov.uk/domestic-abuse. Further information and online assets are available [here](#).

IT

Away From My Desk

At last count 1425 primary care colleagues have registered to use Away From My Desk (AFMD). We know some of you are finding it really useful while a few have told us you are encountering some difficulties. AFMD should replicate your experience of using your computer at work.

If you are having issues with the size of the screen or speed of the connection, the AFMD support team can adjust settings on your home computer to provide an optimal connection. If you things aren't working as they should please contact: support@awayfrommydesk.com or call their help desk on 01173250060.

Administration

Bank Holiday Friday 8 May

At the end of last week, the national NHS primary care bulletin confirmed expectations for opening on the next bank holiday, Friday 8 May.

- GP Practices opening but agreeing with their CCG in advance if that level of the service is needed and the staff cover required. Network level cover may be agreed as an alternative in view of anticipated demand.
- Planned bank holiday cover to be adjusted as needed in response to GP practice opening.
- All community pharmacy open 2-5pm but with any exceptions agreed in advance with NHSEI regional teams.
- Planned community pharmacy and urgent dental care bank holiday cover to proceed unless otherwise agreed with NHSEI regional team.

Thank you for returning the scoping form to inform the CCG of your proposed arrangements to open on Friday 8 May. We will be in touch over the coming days to discuss/agree your proposals.

Information about community support

The Kent and Medway CCG website has a page of public information about coronavirus that is kept up to date. <https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/your-health/coronavirus> . If you would like to link to it from your website it has information about what council and community support is available to your patients.