

12 May 2020

For general practice in Kent and Medway

COVID-19 Update 17

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 sit-rep survey
<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](#).

Kent and Medway CCG primary care weekly sit-rep survey

Thank you for completing last week's survey. We are now getting a good level of returns and we have attached a Highlight Report for last week so you can see an overview of the responses we received.

This week you will notice some additional questions we have been asked to capture by NHSE regarding clinicians returning to work or increasing hours to support the practice during the pandemic. We would appreciate it if you can complete these questions where relevant.

In order to further enable the Primary Care team to support practices with IT issues, please can you include any IT Helpdesk reference numbers in your response if you would like the CCG to follow up with the CSU.

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

If you could please complete the sit-rep by 11:00am on Thursday 14 May your response can then be reflected in next week's highlight report. Thank you.

Infection Protection & Control

Safety recall of Tiger Eye protective goggles

You should all now be aware that a [CAS alert](#) (see Administration section below about registering to receive these if you have not received this directly) was sent out over the weekend regarding the use of the Tiger Eye Protector Product. A test on Tiger Eye protective goggles and frames has shown the product does not meet the current requirement for splash protection required and as a result, this product should not be used in a COVID-19 setting. All practices in Kent and Medway should have now been contacted to ask you to report if you have any in stock and to confirm that it has now been removed from your stores of PPE. Thank you for your help in this necessary process.

Ordering personal protective equipment (PPE).

We have received queries about ordering from the National Supply Disruption Response (NSDR) as some practices have been told that PPE was no longer available to them through that route. To clarify when you contact the NSDR you will be asked to confirm that you have followed all of the steps outlined in the PPE ordering flowchart distributed with Update 16. If you do not confirm that you have first tried to secure PPE from usual suppliers, applied for mutual aid and made an emergency order through the Kent Emergency Services Portal the NSDR, will not accept your order. This is to preserve stocks for when there is a need to respond to a disruption to national supply lines of PPE.

Testing

We realise that you may now get enquiries from patients about testing. Patients should not be directed to NHS 111 as all public information about testing can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test>

Clinical Advice & Support

Verification of death in a period of emergency

The online guidance below is designed to clarify existing practice for the verification of death outside of hospitals and to provide a framework for safe verification of death in this coronavirus emergency period. It is to be applied in all cases outside hospital when verification of death may be completed by people who have been trained to do so in line with their employer's policies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-verification-of-death-in-times-of-emergency>

Perinatal mental health

Next week (18-25 May) is Mental Health Awareness week. Many women are feeling isolated at home and are possibly being seen less frequently and often probably remotely, by health care professionals. There are a few issues that are key in looking after women's perinatal mental health at this time:

please check on the wellbeing of the mother during the baby immunisation appointment, if that is the only face to face appointment you are doing

please be aware that women may well not have been seen by other health care professionals - don't presume someone else will have checked on them

please don't stop psychotropic medication (more information in attached "GP perinatal tips"). We are seeing more women being referred to Maternal and Infant Mental Health Service (MIMS) for help due to worsening after their medication being stopped by their GP. These women have become more unwell unnecessarily.

For information and advice, the local MIMS has a dedicated number for health care professionals to call for general and prescribing advice 01622 722321 and more information is here: <https://www.kmpt.nhs.uk/our-services/mother-and-infant-mental-health-service-mimhs-east-kent/>

Dr Stephanie de Giorgio, GP lead for perinatal mental health for Kent & Medway and NHSE, has provided the attached summary of tips for "GP perinatal tips".

IT

Kent & Medway Medical Interoperability Gateway (MIG) Update

This week a Medway Foundation Trust (MFT) MIG shared care record was made available to EMIS Web GP practices in Medway and Swale. This deployment follows the success of the east Kent hospitals' MIG shared care record being launched last year which already sees over 4,000 records shared with GPs each month.

The MFT MIG shared care record development will allow Medway and Swale EMIS Web GP practices to gain live access to elements of a patient's acute record, over and above what is currently available via other routes. This includes Accident & Emergency attendance notes, past and future appointment details as well as direct access to correspondence and discharge summaries. A practice manager in Medway has stated that: "We have activated MIG Portal and the GPs are loving it! - Thank you."

An email that provides the instructions for activating the EMIS Web MIG consuming portal has already been sent to Medway and Swale EMIS practices. If practices require any support in activating this component of EMIS they should email the MIG team, who will get in touch: nelcsu.migprojectreporting@nhs.net

Administration

Registering to receive alerts from the Central Alerting System

[The Central Alerting System \(CAS\)](#) issues urgent patient safety alerts, important public health messages and other safety critical information and guidance to the NHS. Most practices are subscribed to this web-based cascading system but we strongly encourage all practices to register. If you wish to check your practice's current registration details or have any questions then please contact: safetyalerts@mhra.gov.uk

In addition you can now register on CAS regardless as an individual. This is a temporary measure. Anyone who registers via the two links below will be informed when they intend to stop sending alerts via these routes.

[Register for alerts about coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Register for all alerts that we issue including those about coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Start of national primary care sit-rep

The NHS is now establishing a national primary care sit-rep to collect important operational data not available via other existing data sources.

The sit-rep will, in time, include the weekly reporting of limited operational information from CCGs. Initially we have been asked to supply information across two separate areas:

- Delivery of the COVID-19 care home support model
- Deployment of the “returner” and “increaser” workforce

Normally returns will be made by the CCG on Fridays and we will seek to integrate data collection into our existing sit-rep, as we have done this week, to reduce the number of surveys we issue.

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)

The issue of RIDDOR reporting has been asked about a few times. Please see the guidance below from the Health and Safety Executive.

In summary you must only make a report under RIDDOR when:

- an unintended incident at work has led to someone's possible or actual exposure to coronavirus. This must be reported as a dangerous occurrence.
- a worker has been diagnosed as having COVID 19 and there is reasonable evidence that it was caused by exposure at work. This must be reported as a case of disease.
- a worker dies as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus.

More information is available here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/riddor-reporting-coronavirus.htm>

Communications

New 'Stay Alert' messaging

As a result of the easing of lockdown restrictions this week, the government's advice for the public to control the spread of COVID-19 is now “Stay Alert” - replacing the previous “Stay at Home” messaging. The new guidance can be found in full [here](#).

GP practices are now able to communicate this updated messaging by downloading website banners and social media resources [here](#). Further resources such as email signatures are expected shortly, please check for updates. Please remove any “Stay at Home” messaging that your practice may still be using.