

18 June 2020

For general practice in Kent and Medway

COVID-19 Update 28

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 kmccg.gpscovid19@nhs.net

Update 28 has less information than previous editions and we are sure we are all grateful for that! It is still our intention to continue to publish an update on a Tuesday and Thursday however should there not be sufficient material that requires sharing with practices on both of these days we may from time to time limit publication to once a week. We will continue to keep this under review.

Clinical Advice & Support

COVID-19: understanding the impact on BAME communities

A summary of stakeholder insights into factors affecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities [has been published by Public Health England](#). An accompanying letter to the Equalities Minister from the Chief Executive of Public Health England sets out the recommendations for action outlined in the report.

Resumption of optical services in England

Optical practices holding a general ophthalmic services (GOS) contract have been [sent this letter](#) which sets out the next steps for delivery of NHS optical services in England, as the NHS moves into the second phase of the COVID-19 response.

Infection Prevention & Control

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Portal Order Limits

In Tuesday's Update we encouraged practices to sign up to the new PPE Portal so they can place orders for PPE. We have now been informed that, after considering the stock and demand levels, the Department for Health and Social Care doubled the order limits for Type IIR masks on the portal this week.

Each practice can now order a combined pack, containing 100 (previously 50) IIR masks, 200 aprons and 200 pairs of gloves, per week or up to this amount of separate items

There is more information on the DHSC PPE Portal Guidance Page

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ppe-portal-how-to-order-emergency-personal-protective-equipment>

As before, if there are any queries regarding the PPE Portal, please direct them towards our Customer Service team at 0800 876 6802.

Administration & Workforce

Workforce Minimum Data Set

You will have received an email from NHS Digital about the need to submit your workforce minimum data set by Tuesday 30 June. We would like to ask if you could take a little time to complete this task by that tight deadline. The reason we are reinforcing the importance of doing this at this very busy time is that these data submissions are used for two key purposes:

- Funding allocations for PCNs by Health Education and NHS England are determined by the workforce data available from NHS Digital
- It enables the training hubs to determine, with accuracy, the numbers to plan for when approaching Health Education England for additional funds

Thanking you in anticipation.

Life Assurance

A [new life assurance scheme](#) has been introduced for eligible frontline health and social care workers in England during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The scheme covers staff who provide hands-on personal care for people who have contracted coronavirus or who work in health or social care settings where the virus is present.

Communications

Community Bulletin

The CCG produces a community bulletin that is distributed across Kent and Medway to members of the public who sign up to receive it. Many are members of Health Networks or Patient Participation Groups (PPG). You can read the most recent issue [here](#) – there is a link at bottom of bulletin if you wish to subscribe. You may also wish to encourage members of your PPG to subscribe and promote it to patients.