



19th June 2020

Dear Colleague

Please see below for your information our latest updates during the Covid-19 pandemic:

Ordering personal protective equipment (PPE)

The Department of Health and Social Care has been emailing GP practices, inviting them to register with a new PPE portal that has been developed in partnership with eBay UK, NHS Supply Chain, the Army, Clipper and Royal Mail. The new portal is for ordering PPE from a central inventory. This is to supplement (not replace) the wholesale supply route that already operates.

Current order limits mean GP practices can order one combined pack, containing 100 IIR masks, 200 aprons and 400 gloves (200 pairs), per week or up to this number of separate items. These limits may change over time.

Orders through the portal should arrive within 48 hours if placed before 1pm. Orders placed after 1pm will be subject to an additional 24-hours. The emails asking you to register should be coming from PPE Dedicated Supply Channel - ppe.dedicated.supply.channel@notifications.service.gov.uk.

Please make sure that you are regularly checking your email accounts registered with the CQC/MHRA in order to ensure that the invite is received and actioned. If you have not received the email or have any other queries, please contact the portal directly on 0800 876 6802.

Change to the National Cervical Screening Programme

In response to Covid-19, the Call/Recall administration system was amended to lengthen the timescales between identification of being due for screening and the production of invitation letters. This was done to reduce pressure and workload in Primary Care.

These timescales are now gradually being brought back in line with national cervical screening policy, by 1st October the process should be back to normal operation. As a consequence, GP practices will start receiving higher numbers of requests from people for screening appointments gradually increasing until fully restored in the first week of October.

Guidance has been circulated to all practices (see attached). Public Health Screening Team indicated it would be helpful if practices could let the Public Health Screening Team know if additional support is required to re-establish cervical screening clinics.

Please send details using the generic email addresses: phst@nhs.net

Workforce Minimum Data Set

You will have received an email from NHS Digital about the need to submit your workforce minimum data set by 30 June 2020.

This will be the first occasion that data workforce data for PCNs also will be collected. Only the lead practice within the PCN will need to complete this data. Detailed guidance on completing the June return can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#).

It is important that this data is as accurate as possible because the June data submission is 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 England for additional funds

Med 3/Fit Note Requests

We are aware of increasing requests for Med 3/Fit Notes, particularly in relation to patients being asked to self-isolate before a procedure. We would advise GPs that you are unable to issue a Med3 for patients who have been advised by other parts of the NHS to quarantine or self-isolate. These should be supplied by the person who is giving the advice.

The Cameron Fund, The GPs' own charity

The Cameron Fund is the only medical charity which solely supports NHS General Practitioners. This includes GP Trainees, working GPs, retired GPs, as well as dependants of GPs. The Fund helps GPs and their families who are suffering financial hardship, whether through physical or mental ill-health, disability, bereavement, or loss of employment.

Financial help is tailored to best support an individual's return to work. As well as grants and loans, the Fund can help with money advice assessments and career coaching for those who may no longer be able to continue to work as a GP.

Contact: info@cameronfund.org.uk
020 7388 0796
www.cameronfund.org.uk

Kind regards
The Kent Local Medical Committee