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**Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway**  
**Tuesday 4 August 2020**

## **Weekly primary care sitrep survey**

Many thanks for continuing to take the time to complete the sitrep survey.

The [summary of last week's responses](#) is attached for your information.

Please make sure that one person from each practice completes the weekly sitrep here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk> by **11am on Thursday 6 August**.

## **Clinical advice and support**

### **Third phase of NHS response to Covid-19**

On 31 July Simon Stevens and Amanda Pritchard sent out a letter entitled ["Third phase of NHS response to Covid-19"](#). It provides an update on the latest Covid national alert level, sets out priorities for the rest of 2020/21 and outlines financial arrangements heading into autumn as agreed with government.

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## Covid Recovery

[Your Covid Recovery](#) is a new NHS website designed to help people recover from the long-term effects of Covid-19. It includes information about how to manage ongoing symptoms. It also includes a helpful section for family, friends and carers of people who are recovering. It should be of use to your patients and any staff who are recovering from Covid-19.

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## Registration of deaths

Kent and Medway Coroners have asked us to remind GPs that, now lockdown restrictions have been eased, they should not rely on the emergency coronavirus legislation which allows Registrars to register deaths where a doctor has not seen their patient within 28 days of the death occurring or after death where the Coroner has issued a Form A. If a doctor needs to see the deceased because no other practitioner has attended the patient in the last 28 days, all funeral directors will accommodate a viewing in person at their premises.

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## BMJ Best Practice Tool

Health Education England has commissioned a subscription to the BMJ Best Practice tool, which is ranked as one of the best clinical decision support tools for health professionals worldwide, meaning all health professionals across England now have access to it for free.

[The BMJ Best Practice tool](#) is a web resource which offers healthcare professionals the latest evidence based research, guidelines and expert opinion giving step-by-step guidance on diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention.

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## Updates to shielding guidance

From 1 August, shielding advice to those who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable was relaxed and the national shielding programme was paused. Updated guidance has been [published](#).

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## Flu programme 2020

You will be well aware that the government has announced that a greatly expanded flu vaccination programme will be rolled out this winter. This is part of plans to ready the NHS – both for the risk of a second peak of coronavirus cases, and to relieve winter pressures.

We are aware that this announcement would have raised many questions but we would appreciate it if any questions about implementation are held over until we know more details - we understand that further information will be issued shortly.

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## Cancer webinar

Cancer Research UK invites all clinical directors and primary care staff interested in the cancer requirements of the Primary Care Network DES to join them for a one hour webinar on 12 August for north and west Kent or 14 August for east Kent. More information [here](#).

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## Accessibility of practice websites

Public sector organisations have a legal duty to make sure websites and apps meet accessibility requirements. The accessibility regulations aim to help make sure online public services are accessible to all users, including those with disabilities. See [here](#) for further information.

NHSX will be hosting a webinar in August for GP practices to attend and learn more about meeting accessibility standards before the deadline of 23 September 2020.

Wednesday 19 August 5pm - 6pm - [click here to book your place](#)

## Workforce

### NHS People Plan

On Thursday 30 July, NHS England and NHS Improvement, and Health Education England published the next part of the NHS People Plan. [We are the NHS: People Plan for 2020/21 - action for us all](#) sets out what our NHS people can expect from leaders and each other.

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### Recruitment of social prescribing link workers (SPLWs)

SPLWs have been an important part of the response to Covid-19, helping to support a wider group of people with mental health and social issues and contributing to reducing pressure on general practice. Therefore the NHS is funding a time-limited support offer to cover recruitment and induction costs

for additional primary care network directed enhanced service funded SPLWs. More information [here](#).

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Please share this update with colleagues who are [welcome to subscribe](#) to the mailing list.

Previous issues of the GP Practice Update [are available online](#).

If you have any feedback or ideas to make the updates more useful to you [please email](#).

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## Useful links

- [Weekly stakeholder bulletin](#)
- [Offers for NHS staff](#)

**Produced by the communications team, NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group**