



Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway
Tuesday 29 September 2020

Weekly primary care sitrep

Thank you for continuing to complete the sitrep report each week to update the CCG on any issues you are having during this phase of the pandemic response. The summary of last week's responses can be found [here](#).

This week, to help practices in carrying out the flu vaccine programme, there are some questions around support needed to vaccinate housebound and care home residents and staff.

Please can you make sure that one person from each practice completes the weekly sitrep here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/62MD2B7> by 11am on Thursday 1st October.

Clinical advice and support

Become a Covid-19 Community Champion

The current evidence suggests that Covid-19 may have a disproportionate impact on people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups. This is in line with other health inequalities that we know exist for BAME and other population groups, such as people living in areas of deprivation.

A marketing campaign to reach out to all residents and organisations in Kent and Medway has been developed. The first phase of the campaign is focused on the headline Covid safety messages and symptom awareness, with phase two including broader healthy lifestyle messages. Resources are now available to download by any resident or organisation

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/communityresources>

You are asked to download, print and display any resource you wish to - there are digital assets to use on websites and social media. This week, all materials will be converted to the ten most commonly spoken languages across Kent and Medway.

To support us in reaching all residents and groups with these important messages, we are launching the Covid-19 Community Champions Programme. Please circulate the attached [advert](#) for this programme to any contacts that you have, that may be interested in becoming a champion or perhaps consider becoming one yourself.

Anyone can become a champion, and there is no set time commitment for those that do sign up. Ideally we are looking to recruit residents who are trusted in their communities and have the opportunity to relay key messages. Current messages include symptom awareness and advise on how we can all stop the spread.

The champions can attend regular question and answer sessions with our local experts, although people only need to dial in to the virtual meetings as their availability allows. These sessions will allow the opportunity for champions to feedback and let us know what issues are being faced in the community.

Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance webinars on earlier diagnosis

Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance has organised a series of clinically-led, free, educational webinars, focusing on the components of the earlier diagnosis DES (directed enhanced services). The interactive webinars include a Q&A session with expert panels. There are two webinars left in the series – one of them takes place tomorrow.

Webinar on screening takes place on Wednesday 30 September at 7pm to 8pm

Webinar on system partners and community learning on Wednesday 7 October at 1pm to 2pm

For more details and to register please look at this [leaflet](#).

Stoptober campaign returns for ninth year



Smokers are once again being encouraged to quit for good during the month of October with the national Stoptober campaign.

The campaign reminds all smokers that now more than ever, ahead of flu season, is the time to put their lungs first and join the nation's biggest quit attempt.

Around 1 million people quit during the coronavirus lockdown, according to data from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) and many more are expected to join them as they take advantage of the additional resources and support available.

This year's campaign provides a range of free quitting support including the Stoptober app, Facebook messenger bot, daily emails, Stoptober online communities, expert support from local Stop Smoking Services and stop smoking aids.

GP practices can help publicise the campaign with a range of resources available to [download here](#).

Seeking a GP with Special Interest (GPwSI) in dermatology

Following the suspension of dermatology services provided by DMC Healthcare in north Kent (<https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/news/ccg-statement-north-kent-dermatology-service>), the CCG is conducting a patient harm review and is seeking a GPwSI in dermatology to be part of the moderating panel.

If you are interested in taking part, please email Steph Taylor, Head of Quality at the CCG on stephtaylor@nhs.net.

Due to the nature of the review, we are only seeking GPs who have not been previously involved with the dermatology contract in north Kent.

Infection prevention and control

Update on coronavirus antibody testing for primary care staff - recalls cancelled

GPs and primary care staff who have had antibody testing for coronavirus – the test to see whether you had previously been infected with the virus – will not now be recalled for a follow up test. Please do not contact your testing or occupational health teams to arrange a follow up antibody test, as this is neither necessary nor available.

Primary care colleagues are reminded that there is still no robust scientific evidence that previous infection by the coronavirus confers any immunity to reinfection. Staff should continue to follow all established guidelines on PPE use, social distancing and other infection control measures at all times, both in the workplace and when not at work.

Free PPE for primary care

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has notified the NHS that the arrangements announced about free personal protective equipment (PPE) [to social care](#) will be extended to primary care when they publish their PPE strategy this week. We understand that practices [registered on the PPE portal](#) will be able to receive PPE supplies free of charge. Please call the DHSC PPE portal customer services on 0800 876 6802 with any queries.

Government advice on shielding guidance

We're aware that some of you are receiving queries from the public about whether shielding guidance is currently in place. Shielding advice was lifted in Kent and Medway (along with most areas of the country) on 1 August 2020. If shielding guidance is re-introduced in a particular area due to a local lockdown, people considered clinically extremely vulnerable, as well as local health system colleagues, will be informed of the changes.

Flu

General practice webinar

The next general practice webinar on Thursday 1 October 2020 from 5 – 6:30pm will include a focus on the national flu programme. This is a closed webinar for those working in or with general practice. Please ensure you [register here](#) before midnight on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

Administration

Reminder about the Data Protection and Security toolkit

The Data Protection team would like to remind all GPs that the previously postponed Data Protection and Security toolkit (DSPT) submission from the 31 March 2020 is due by close of business on 30 September 2020. Whilst the majority of surgeries have now submitted we see a number are still outstanding. If you are unable to complete your toolkit you must arrange for an extension via

NHS Digital. For support with this task please contact the Data Protection Officer team kmccg.northkentgdataprotection@nhs.net

Local Area updates

East Kent

Patients booking of phlebotomy services

Patients that would usually use the phlebotomy services within East Kent Hospitals must now have an appointment. Patients can book their appointment directly by visiting the East Kent Hospitals website and searching for “blood tests” or they can use [this link](#).

This booking service, brought in to help observe social distancing, has appointments available across all EKHUFT hospital sites, including same day appointments in some cases. Blood tests must still be requested using DART and the patient must be given the DART sheet or reference number to take to their phlebotomy appointment. This service is for adults and children 7 years of age and older although after 5 October this will be 5 years of age and older.

If patients are unable to book via the portal and do not have a support network who can help they need to call 01227 206739, but to avoid this number being overloaded with calls those who can use the portal should be encouraged to do so.

Phlebotomy for children

As you are aware, as a response to Covid-19, and to support the need to reduce children accessing EKHUFT sites, KCHFT agreed to support routine bloods for children aged 2-7 in east Kent for a period of three months.

EKHUFT has notified us that from the 12 October 2020, EKHUFT will resume providing a children's phlebotomy service and GPs will be able to refer children to EKHUFT if they require bloods to be taken as per the usual commissioned arrangements.

Children aged under 5 years should be directed to the paediatric phlebotomy service and children 5 years and over should be directed to the blood testing pathology service after 5 October (see item above).

EKHUFT phlebotomy services (under 5 years) are operated on an appointment only basis and are for non-urgent blood tests. Should you be concerned about a child and require an urgent blood test, please refer them in the usual manner to the on-call paediatric registrar. Parents should not be asked to book urgent blood tests.

There is a limited service for children with genuine needle phobia available in Rainbow Ward at QEQM. This would require a written referral addressed to the Ward Manager (Emma Desmond). Each request will then be assessed individually and added to the waiting list.

All children accessing the pathway must come with a completed request form. We would be grateful if you could remind families/carers that if they fail to bring the form(s) to their appointment we will be unable to complete the tests.

For your reference we attach the [EKHUFT referral pathway](#) that will be in place from 12 October 2020.

All children that have been referred up to 12 October will receive the phlebotomy service from KCHFT.

KCHFT Children's Community Nursing Team will continue to carry out blood tests for the oncology patients and long term patients on the caseload (i.e. for methotrexate and other drug levels) as per the commissioned pathway. All

referrals for the Children's Community Nursing Team from 12 October will need to be emailed through using the [attached referral form](#).

Queries should be directed to the following:-

For the EKHUFT phlebotomy service contact:-

Children's ward clinics (under 5 years).

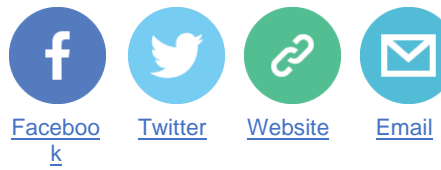
- William Harvey Hospital, Padua Ward, Ashford on alternate Saturday mornings only. To book an appointment telephone - 01233 651855 (Lines open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday).
- Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Dolphin Ward, Canterbury on Tuesdays (all day). To book an appointment telephone – 01227 864052/01227 783109 (Lines open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday)
- QEQM hospital, Broadstairs Suite, Margate on alternate Saturday mornings only. To book an appointment telephone - 01843 225544 Ext: 725 3287 (Lines open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday)

For the KCHFT pathway, please contact 0300 790028415 or kcht.ccnt@nhs.net

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](#).



Useful links

- [Offers for NHS staff](#)
- [NHS England primary care bulletin](#)
- [Kent and Medway Medicines Optimisation Newsletters](#)

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