



**Important information for GP practices across Kent and Medway**  
**Tuesday 10 November 2020**

## **Weekly primary care sitrep**

Thank you for your continued completion of the sitrep. A summary of last week's responses can be found [here](#).

Following a review of the evidence since the start of the pandemic about which people are more likely to become very unwell as a consequence of Covid-19 infection, the UK Chief Medical Officers have instructed that two new conditions be included in the "high risk" criteria for the shielded patient list:

- adult patients with Down's syndrome
- adult patients with kidney impairment (Stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease)

This week's sitrep has some questions to gauge where practices are in identifying these patients and adding them to the shielded patient list.

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 12 November**.

**Clinical advice and support**

## Messages of thanks

Secretary of State for the Department of Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, has recorded a video message for NHS staff thanking them for all of their hard work during the Covid-19 pandemic. The video can be viewed on YouTube [here](#).

Jo Churchill MP and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care has written to all GPs and general practice staff to express thanks for the work of general practice throughout the pandemic. You can read it [here](#).

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## Helping patients get fit to fight Covid-19

To support your work in identifying and helping those patients who are at greatest risk of poor outcomes from Covid-19 infection, Dr Navin Kumta has filmed a video message. We will be promoting this video over the coming weeks to encourage patients to look after their health and respond to your invitations to discuss their conditions with them. Please share the CCG's posts on your social media channels and link to the page from your websites.

CCG website page with the [video](#)  
Direct link to [video](#)

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## New guidance for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to Covid-19

Following publication of new guidance for people who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable to Covid-19, the Government has written to everyone on the shielded patients list (SPL) to notify them of the change in advice. These have started to land on patients' doorsteps. There is a separate letter to children and young people on the SPL. The guidance and letters are [published on the gov.uk website](#).

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## Immediate actions in response to mink-variant SARS-CoV-2 virus in Denmark

A [letter has been issued](#) asking the NHS to take immediate action due to outbreaks of mink-variant SARS-Cov-2 virus in Denmark.

- Any travellers from Denmark returning to the UK will now be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Individuals should not be seeking routine outpatient, ambulatory or primary care, elective treatment while in their 14 days of isolation after return from Denmark.
- Primary and secondary care organisations should assess that an individual has returned from Denmark and delay elective and non-urgent treatment until after the 14 days of isolation.

There is further guidance [here](#).

### Administration

#### Annual electronic declaration

The General Practice Annual Electronic Declaration (eDEC) collection window has been postponed and is now expected to open on 30 November until mid-January. More [details are available](#).

### Covid vaccinations

#### Primary care DES

NHS England and Improvement has published a [letter which outlines in more detail](#) what is expected to happen over the coming weeks. It includes important dates and outlines that collaborative work with other practices to deliver vaccinations in PCN groupings is required, with at least one site being designated initially per PCN grouping.

[Annex A is a Reference Guide](#) providing further information on the likely ask of general practice and the likely content of the service specification. [Annex](#)

[B sets out the process for designating sites](#) nominated by PCNs to administer vaccinations. An indicative service specification will be published shortly. Aspects of a potential Covid-19 vaccination programme will be finalised when final trial results and licensing has occurred.

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## Designated sites

The CCG Primary Care Team is here to support you with the designation of sites to deliver the Covid vaccinations. As this is an initial exercise – please, at this stage, begin to discuss with your CDs and PCN practices or with your federations what part you would like to play in the delivery of the Covid vaccinations.

PCN groupings will need to submit [using this form](#) to the CCG no later than Tuesday 17 November the details of the site (or sites) initially being nominated for designation and the names and contact details of all of the practices collaborating within the PCN (and with other local non-PCN member practices or PCNs as appropriate) who have agreed that the nominated site will be used to administer Covid-19 vaccinations to their patient population under the enhanced service.

A CCG representative will then undertake a process to assess the extent to which the nominated site meets each of the specified criteria (covering vaccine storage, planning and co-ordination, site safety and security, vaccine wastage, space, workforce, patient experience, and handling, preparation, administration, aftercare, data collection and reporting).

The CCG will subsequently make a recommendation to NHS England and NHS Improvement as to whether the site should be designated, and the PCN grouping will be informed of the outcome no later than Monday 23 November. It is likely that later in the vaccination process, additional sites will be designated.

If you have any queries about this please email [eastkent.primarycare@nhs.net](mailto:eastkent.primarycare@nhs.net). Completed forms can be sent to this address too.

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## BMA guidance on Covid-19 vaccination programme

The BMA General Practitioners Committee in England has now agreed with NHS England and NHS Improvement the general practice Covid-19 vaccination service which will be commissioned in line with agreed national terms and conditions as a directed enhanced service (DES).

The BMA has [published guidance](#) which provides details about what the Covid-19 vaccination programme involves, what is expected of practices, what you will get to support this work, and guidance on what to do now.

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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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Read the CCG's latest [Prescribing Newsletter](#) and [Which Script](#), along with [supply shortage alerts](#).

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### 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

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