



Dear Colleague

Welcome to this week's edition of the LMC Express.

The local updates for this week include:

- Next Steps on infection prevention and control (IPC) C1657; to wear a mask or not to wear a mask, that is the question
- Suspension of Dr Manjula Arora
- Update to accelerating patient access to their GP-held records
- A message from the Training Hub: Teaching Safety Netting - Webinar funded by KMPCTH

### **Next Steps on infection prevention and control (IPC) C1657; to wear a mask or not to wear a mask, that is the question**

We understand that practices are having some difficulties in interpreting these rather vague guidelines. Below is a summary produced by NHSE and a view from the LMC.

Dr Ursula Montgomery, Director of Primary Care, NHS England & Improvement, and confirms: *This highlights the updates from UK Health Security Agency and notes that this advice should sit alongside the [National Infection Prevention and Control manual](#) and local risk assessment. There is also an acknowledgement that there may need to be a period of transition as practices make changes to their operating procedures especially in light of local COVID-19 infection rates.*

*Top line summary of points:*

- *Patients should be able to be accompanied to appointments if they wish*
- *Health and care staff should wear facemasks in untriaged settings where patients might have COVID19*
- *Masking where known patients with immunosuppression*
- *Health and care staff in general do not need to wear face masks in nonclinical areas e.g. offices unless personal preference*
- *Patients with respiratory symptoms should wear a facemask or covering if tolerated or offered one on arrival*
- *Other patients not required to wear a facemask unless personal preference*
- *People accompanying patients not routinely required to wear a face mask unless personal preference*

Kent LMC view is the guidance needs to be read alongside responsibilities as an employer and the responsibility to protect your staff. In our view, GP waiting rooms could well contain Clinically Extremely Vulnerable patients and untriaged patients who may be harbouring covid. Practices may wish to enforce masking wearing in these circumstances or offer to see clinically vulnerable patients in isolation room if available. However, GPs must remember their duty of care to see and to assess patients' needs.

The LMC is working with the CCG to develop more workable local advice and posters. Some potential ideas for banners for practices.....

*“The person sitting next to you could be receiving chemotherapy for cancer and at risk from serious covid infection; please wear a mask.”*

*“The child next to their parent could have a severe immunodeficiency and susceptible to severe covid infection; please wear a mask.”*

*“Staff are our most precious resource we cannot afford them not to be at work with covid. Help us to help you; please wear a mask.”*

*“We are not a supermarket we are a healthcare centre looking after the most vulnerable in your community; please wear a mask”*

## **Suspension of Dr Manjula Arora**

Kent LMC has received responses to our letter of 27th May 2022 calling for a review of Dr Arora's suspension from the GMC register from the GMC and the Professional Standards Authority. You can read our letter together with the responses [HERE](#) .

Although we are pleased to hear that there will be a review into the decision, we maintain our support for Dr Arora and hope that her suspension will be revoked without delay.

## **A message from NHS Digital Implementation Team: Update to accelerating patient access to their GP-held records**

The government has launched the Data Saves Lives strategy for health and care, which describes how we will use data and technology to improve the health and care of individuals. This makes clear our commitment to make it easier for all patients to access their GP-held information, so they can better manage their health and ultimately reduce burden on staff. We will support general practice to increase the number of patients who have access to their health records, in a way that builds confidence ahead of a national switch-on scheduled for November 2022. Guidance, training materials and support will soon be available to help implement this change safely and efficiently.

In the meantime you can read [further information about the change](#) or [contact the team](#) if you have any questions.

## **A Message from the Training Hub: Teaching Safety Netting - Webinar funded by KMPCTH**

Please see attached information regarding an upcoming webinar presented by **Dr Paul Silverston - Teaching Safety Netting**

This session is for GPs, Clinicians and Medical Educators and will cover:

- Understanding the principles and purpose of safety-netting advice
- Tools to improve the delivery of safety-netting advice in different consultations
  - - The 6-C's decision-making tool
    - SAFER tool for creating the medical content
    - Visual tools to enhance the patient content
    - SBAR tool for verbal delivery

**This webinar is free to attend and will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 1pm-2:30pm. You will need to register via the [Eventbrite link](#) to receive the online link.**

Kind regards  
Kent Local Medical Committee