



# Daily Update

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**In today's update: COVID-19 vaccinations update; check your pharmacy's shared NHSmail account for a CAS email; further Terms of Service explainer articles.**

## COVID-19 vaccinations update

Following a positive Government update on progress to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, the NHS has released [documentation to help GP practices prepare for a potential vaccination programme](#).

In a letter to GP practices, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) stated that "PCN partners in community services or community pharmacy may be able to support delivery". [As shared on Friday](#), PSNC is in discussions with officials about how the community pharmacy sector will be involved and we will provide further information as soon as we are able.

The characteristics of the COVID-19 vaccines – including initial storage requirements at very low temperatures and the way they will be supplied to the NHS – have implications for how the COVID vaccination programme will be organised and the scale of the sites used. This means the programme will work very differently to flu vaccination.

Further information will be released as soon as it is available but, in the meantime, contractors should be aware that the rollout will be coordinated by the NHS at a local level and that GPs and pharmacies will need to work together to make this work for their communities.

Contractors can also be assured that PSNC has stressed that community pharmacy teams must be vaccinated alongside all other health and social care professionals: NHSE&I has now confirmed to us that this will be the case.

## CAS sends test email to community pharmacies

Today the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MHRA) has sent a test Central Alerting System (CAS) email to each pharmacy's shared NHSmail account.

From Monday this week, 9th November 2020, [contractors are required to register their pharmacy's shared NHSmail account with the MHRA](#). A bulk upload into the CAS of pharmacies' NHSmail email addresses was supported by NHS Digital, at the request of NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), so the majority of contractors could meet this new requirement without taking any action.

Please check that your pharmacy or pharmacies have each received their email from CAS and if not, ensure each pharmacy has a shared NHSmail account and this is registered with MHRA for CAS alerts.

If you did not receive this email and you need to register a pharmacy shared NHSmail account with MHRA for CAS alerts, you should email [safetyalerts@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:safetyalerts@mhra.gov.uk).

## New NHS Pharmacy Regulations: Explainer articles

Last month new NHS regulations were laid to introduce changes to the Terms of Service for pharmacy contractors. The main changes were listed in a [summary news article](#). However, PSNC's new regs explainer series now aims to provide more detail on each of the new requirements. The following articles have been published in recent days.

### **Regs explainer (#13): HLP requirements**

From 1st January 2021, the Healthy Living Pharmacy Level 1 (HLP) requirements will become a new Terms of Service requirement for all pharmacies. Note there have been some changes to these, particularly in relation to how they will apply to Distance Selling Pharmacies.

[Learn more about the HLP requirements](#)

### **Regs explainer (#14): Consultation rooms and remote consultations**

From 1st January 2021, almost all pharmacies will need to have a consultation room. Distance Selling Pharmacies must ensure that there are arrangements in place at the pharmacy which enable staff and patients to communicate confidentially by telephone or another live audio link and a live video link.

[Learn more about the consultation room requirements](#)

**Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 with our hub page: [psnc.org.uk/coronavirus](https://psnc.org.uk/coronavirus)**

*Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee*



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14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ  
Tel: 0203 1220 810 | Email: [info@psnc.org.uk](mailto:info@psnc.org.uk)