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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Monday 11th October 2021 |

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|  | This newsletter from PSNC is sent every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It contains important information for those that work in the community pharmacy sector.In this update: Guidance on accessing DHSC flu vac stock published; PSNC press coverage on flu vac supply; safety culture survey; extension of emergency regs.Guidance published on accessing DHSC flu vac stockThe Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published guidance on how community pharmacy contractors can access supplies of flu vaccines procured centrally by the Government.To achieve even higher vaccine uptake rates than last year, DHSC has secured an additional supply of influenza vaccines as a temporary measure for this year only. These vaccines will be available for NHS trusts, general practices, and community pharmacies to top up local supplies once they run low and deployed to areas where needed to maximise uptake.The DHSC guidance advises contractors to assess whether there is a need for further flu vaccines by assessing current uptake rates in eligible cohorts and calculating any additional vaccines required. Contractors wanting to order more stock should contact their regular wholesaler and follow the wholesaler’s process for ordering stock – contractors will pay for the flu vaccines in the usual way.[**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=c11aafd08f&e=d19e9fd41c) PSNC press coverage - Flu jab supplyOver the weekend, the Telegraph ran a story reporting that increased demand for flu jabs has caused some pharmacies in England to run out of stock. The article drew on interviews with PSNC's Director of NHS Services, Alastair Buxton and PSNC Regional Representative Mark Burdon.[**Read the Telegraph article**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=e84d008a90&e=d19e9fd41c)Following on from that article, PSNC has today issued the following statement to reassure the public of the situation: "Requests for flu vaccinations are at an all-time high as people seek to protect themselves. Community pharmacists are vaccinating as many people as they can and most pharmacies had ordered extra vaccine supplies this year in anticipation of the high demand.We are seeing some regional variation where stocks have run low and even temporarily run out in some cases due to a surge in demand. However, as flu vaccines are sent in phased deliveries over the season, pharmacies will be expecting to have more stock delivered in due course. Pharmacies are well practised at managing stock to make sure that everyone who wants to be vaccinated can be over the course of the season."Patient Safety Culture SurveyCommunity pharmacy teams are reminded that they have been invited to complete the Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group's survey on the culture of safety reporting within the sector before **15th October 2021**. This anonymous survey has been designed to gather information on frontline teams' perspectives of the culture around safety reporting, the enablers and barriers to reporting, the clarity of the reporting processes, and the confidence of those reporting.[**Complete the 2021 Safety Culture Survey**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=7cdf36460d&e=d19e9fd41c) Secretary of State declaration of emergency extensionWe would like to remind contractors that the [**declaration of an emergency**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=c95806b63c&e=d19e9fd41c) allowing the flexible provision of pharmaceutical services, which was introduced to help maintain pharmacy services during the COVID-19 outbreak, has been extended to **31st January 2022**. Read more about the [**emergency regulations**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=a930cf5b89&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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