

26<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **COVID Alert Levels and Advice for Practices and Patients at Risk**

Following the [announcement of a three-tier lockdown approach for England](#) last week, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire have now joined Liverpool City and Lancashire in the Tier 3 (very high) alert level. Warrington will be added next week. Read the full list of COVID alert levels in England by area [here](#). A 17-day [national "firebreak"](#) will begin in Wales at 6pm today and a [5 tier system](#) will be introduced in Scotland from 2 November.

Few will welcome these restrictions, but unless rising rates of transmission are curbed urgently, we will soon see an increase in patients needing care, and sadly a rise in deaths. Some hospitals have already announced that they will have to once again reduce some elective procedures, with all the implications that then brings both for patients and practices. People need to have confidence that the sacrifices they are now required to make are understood by those in power and these new restrictions must be backed with more support for GP practices in those areas who will be impacted significantly.

[NHSE/I has confirmed](#) that local flexibilities should be made available, to support practices to clinically prioritise capacity in these challenging times. GPC are in discussion with NHSEI about how they can provide clearer support to practices struggling with workload pressures as the prevalence of patients with COVID-19 increases.

## **Ordering Additional Adult Flu Vaccine Stock**

As reported last week, [DHSC has written to practices](#) to confirm the process by which they will be able to access the additional adult flu vaccine stock secured to support the expanded vaccination programme this season.

GP practices are now invited to begin ordering or pre-ordering the following vaccines:

- Flucelvax® Tetra (Seqirus) for 18-64 years
- Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (Seqirus) for over 65s
- Quadrivalent Influvac® sub-unit Tetra (Mylan) for 18-64 year olds

If a GP practice has a provisional order with Sanofi for QIVe, please contact them to confirm this, before placing another order for QIVe for this cohort.

On placing an order, practices will be asked by manufacturers to verify that stock is being ordered for NHS eligible patients or frontline social care workers, where there is a genuine shortage for this cohort. Orders should only be placed where you have a shortfall in supply for existing eligible patients at this stage.

Further instruction on timing of extension of eligibility to all 50 to 64 year olds will follow and stock should not be ordered for this cohort at this stage.

### **Influenza Immunisation FAQs**

NHSE/I have now produced a set of FAQs relating to the influenza immunisation programme and can be found [here](#). They have also issued guidance, which is attached, on how practices and CCGs can make use of the additional £15.4m made available to local systems and primary care providers to cover reasonable additional costs (over and above the usual fee structures) associated with this year's extended flu programme.

### **Pensions Newsletter**

The BMA's pension committee has been at the forefront of fighting to maximise your pension benefits. Please see the first quarterly newsletter [here](#). The newsletter provides an update on what actions the committee is taking on a range of issues, and also provides access to educational resources, blogs and information on how to access BMA support regarding your pension.

### **CQRS System Supplier Change**

NHSE/I is overseeing a programme to ensure the CQRS system supports efficient GP incentive-based payments. As part of this work NHSE/I is working with NHS CSUs to bring the running and development of the CQRS system in-house from 1 November 2020 and to introduce a new centrally funded system (CQRS Local) to support locally commissioned schemes by April 2021. These changes aim to streamline processes and reduce the administrative errors in GP payments as called for in GPCE's [Saving General Practice](#).

A structured transition from the existing supplier is in place to ensure the continued provision of the CQRS system from November with minimal

interruption for end users. How users access and use the CQRS system is not changing and no action is required from practices or commissioners.

From 1 November the new number for the CQRS service desk will be **0330 124 4039**, although the email address remains [support@cqrs.co.uk](mailto:support@cqrs.co.uk).

While the system itself will look and feel the same a new [CQRS welcome page](#) is now live providing direct links to the CQRS system and online training modules, guidance and news updates.

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

### **Wellbeing**

We are fortunate to have excellent mental health support in place for general practice locally across both our counties. Do please access support if you need it and remember that it is very hard to look after others if you are not looking after yourself! The latest support available can be found on our [website](#).

### **Mentor Support**

Please find a flyer highlighting how you can access peer support during this time [here](#). More information about [wellbeing](#) support can be found on the LMC website.

### **BMA Mental Health and Wellbeing**

The BMA continues to offer [wellbeing services](#) and confidential 24/7 counselling and peer support for all doctors and medical students, as well as their partners and dependents, on 0330 123 1245. Access the [BMA's COVID-19 wellbeing pages here](#).

The BMA has welcomed the NHSE/I [announcement](#) of further funding for the expanded and rapid access provision of mental health services for NHS staff in England over the winter. This is urgently required and something the BMA has been calling for to support the major challenges NHS staff are facing. At the ARM, a motion was passed expressing concern at the potential long-term impact of the pandemic and called for resources to support the profession. As we head into a second wave of the virus it is vital that staff are protected. [Find out more here](#).

### **LMC Website**

The following guidance has been added to the LMC website [www.worcslmc.co.uk](http://www.worcslmc.co.uk) this week:

No New Items

**Other COVID 19 Resources**

[BMJ – news and resources](#)

[RCGP COVID-19 information](#)

[NHSE/I primary care bulletins](#)

[NICE resources](#)

# WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE LMC LTD

**Registered office: St Stephens Surgery, Adelaide Street, Redditch, Worcs B97 4AL  
Tel. 01527 65082**

All topical issues relating to local general practice are discussed at the monthly LMC meetings and those minutes can be read on the LMC [Website](#). Should you require further information on any issues raised at the LMC meetings please do not hesitate to contact the LMC representative for your area or practice.

## **MEMBERS OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN:** Dr Shaun Pike  
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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Lisa Siembab  
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## **Representatives:**

**BROMSGROVE:** Dr D Pryke  
Dr K Hollier

**REDDITCH:** Dr I Haines  
Dr S Pike

**WYRE FOREST:** Dr M Davis  
Dr S Morton  
Dr J Rayner

**WYCHAVON:** Dr D Herold  
Dr J Rankin  
Dr R Kinsman

**MALVERN:** Dr P Bunyan  
Dr B Fisher

**WORCESTER:** Dr F Martin  
Dr C Whyte  
Dr R Benney

## **Co-opted Representatives:**

**Out of Hours:** Dr E Penny  
**Dispensing:** Dr J Rankin  
**Registrars Rep:** Dr J Chun (North)  
Dr L Jones (South)  
**First5 Rep:** Dr M Venables

## **Practice Manager Representatives:**

Helen Garfield, Representative WF PM  
Lisa Luke, Representative R&B PM  
Meryl Foster, Representative SW PM

**IT Rep:** Dr R Williams  
**Non Principals:** Dr W Safdar  
**Clinical Directors:** Rotating  
**BAME:** Dr W Safdar

## **MEMBERS OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN:** Dr Nigel Fraser  
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### **Representatives:**

All 20 practices are represented at Committee Meetings

**Worcestershire and Herefordshire GPC Representative:** Dr S Parkinson

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED FROM THE LMC OFFICE AT  
ST STEPHENS SURGERY**

### **The next LMC meetings will be:**

Worcestershire – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Herefordshire – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020