

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Guidance**

We expect the specification for the COVID-19 vaccination programme to be published early this week, with more information for the many practices that have identified designated sites to use for the shared delivery of the programme. The BMA have updated their newly published [guidance](#) about the CVP to explain the specific characteristics for two of the potential vaccines that are likely to be supplied in the UK and how practices can prepare for this. There is also a clarification that the latest information on the vaccines suggests that patients do not need to be observed following administration of the vaccine, but patients must not drive for 15 minutes after.

They have added a new section about how practices can utilise the resources and contractual flexibilities provided, including the use of PCN staff, extended access services and using QOF and local enhanced services income protection to enable workload prioritisation, and considering what is needed to practically deliver the vaccine and workforce issues.

## **Flu Vaccination Programme**

The Department of Health in England has announced that all those over-50 can be included in the influenza programme from 1 December. Practices can order additional vaccines from the national store.

Following the impressive work of practices in recent weeks, flu vaccine uptake is higher in all vulnerable groups except pregnant women compared to this time last year. Provisional data published by PHE suggests 72.9% of those aged 65 and over, 45.0% of 2 year olds and 46.8% of 3 year olds have had their vaccine.

## **Secretary of State Praises GPs' Pandemic Response**

Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in England, led the No 10 briefing on Monday last week, and in response to a question from the media he said:

“What I’d say to every GP is how grateful I am for the work that you’re doing, and your whole practice, everybody in primary care, both on the flu vaccine right now, which is being rolled out in record numbers – we’ve had a record uptake, we’ve had a 10 percentage point increase in the normal uptake of flu vaccines and that’s really good news – and of course on the normal pressures of primary care. I’m really glad that a much bigger proportion of appointments in primary care are now done either over the phone or by video because that makes life easier for GPs and patients and there’s been a really positive response to that. But that doesn’t of course lift the whole burden, even though it makes access easier. I want to thank in advance GPs for all the work that I know that they’re doing now and that there’ll be even more of this winter to keep people safe.”

### **Letter to Secretary of State for Health on the Need for CQC Support for General Practice**

GPC have received a response from the CQC (Care Quality Commissioning) to their letter which urged the CQC to halt all non-essential inspections and practice monitoring to allow GPs and their teams, currently under immense pressure, to focus on the job at hand during the pandemic. Disappointingly, the CQC are not prepared to change their transitional regulatory approach, although it has confirmed that it will only inspect based on risk – i.e. where there are serious concerns around safety and quality of care.

They have now written the attached letter to Matt Hancock to raise concerns about this calling again for an immediate suspension of all CQC inspections and reviews of general practice, other than those required for serious safety issues. This should be for the duration of the pandemic and to enable practices to focus on other priorities, not least the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

### **Highest Ever GP Trainee Acceptances Figures**

Health Education England (HEE) has published figures this week which show the highest ever number of GPs entering training in England with 3,793 posts accepted, exceeding their target of 3,250. GP trainee acceptances have increased year on year for the last 7 years and these figures represent a 40% increase on the figure of 2,700 recruits when HEE started its recruitment drive back in 2014. This is welcome news. Read more [here](#).

### **BMA Report on Exiting the Lockdown in England**

The BMA has launched a new report warning that lifting lockdown in England without new measures in place risks deepening the crisis in our health service, and will leave hospitals and GP practices overwhelmed, unable to provide even the most critical of patient care.

The report outlines major reforms for England, once lockdown is lifted, to keep infection rates low and pull back the NHS from collapse this winter. The BMA is calling for the new measures to be brought in, to bridge the time between the planned end of lockdown in England, on December 2nd, and an effective vaccine programme getting underway. Read more [here](#).

### **NHS 111 Directly Bookable Appointments**

NHSE/I relaxed the requirement for practices to make appointments available for NHS111 to directly book. The maximum that should be made available remains 1 per 500 patients, but practices can now **only make available what is necessary to meet demand**. This may therefore be covered by the previous arrangement of 1 per 3000 patients. We are aware that most practices do not see many of the slots available being booked into, so practices can now reduce this and only make available what they believe is required. Practices should though monitor this to ensure they are offering sufficient opportunity for direct booking.

### **Cameron Fund Christmas Appeal**

The Cameron Fund is the only medical benevolent fund that solely supports GPs, including those that are retired. Throughout the year they have been able to support numerous GPs and their families who have found themselves in financial crisis. Donations from LMCs and individuals account for nearly half to their income each year.

We are delighted to share with you that Simon Parkinson, former long Worcestershire LMC Secretary, has now joined the Cameron Fund Board. Please read a person letter from [Simon](#).

The Cameron Fund have launched their [Christmas Appeal](#) to ask all LMCs and constituent GPs to consider giving their support to the fund again this year.

Should you wish to make a donation they would be happy to receive either a cheque or a bank transfer to their account at CAF Bank:-

Account No. 00015215  
Sort Code 40-52-40

Should you require assistance from the Cameron Fund please contact them on telephone number 020 7388 0796 or via email at [info@cameronfund.org.uk](mailto:info@cameronfund.org.uk).

## **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:

[Cameron Fund Letter](#)

[Cameron Fund Christmas Appeal](#)

[Letter to Matt Hancock from Richard Vautrey](#)

### **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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## **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**

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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 – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
Herefordshire – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020