

15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

Earlier this week, [eligible patients \(70 or over\) who have not yet heard from their practice or received a letter and have not yet taken up a vaccine offer](#), were invited to contact the [online booking service](#), call 119 or contact their GP practice directly. This aims to catch patients who may have been missed by or not responded to previous communications.

While the focus continues to be to vaccinate JCVI groups 1-4 this week if this is complete vaccination sites are permitted to offer appointments to people in cohort 5 and 6 instead of risking wastage.

Practices have also been asked to contact their clinically extremely vulnerable patients, who are shielding, to ensure they have been offered the vaccine.

### Vaccination of Frontline Health and Social Care Workers

Protecting frontline health and social care workers from COVID-19 remains a priority, something that the BMA has been lobbying on, and NHSE/I has [written to commissioners](#) this week asking for reassurance that the offer of a vaccination frontline health and social care workers, as priority cohorts, has been fulfilled.

[Social care workers](#) are now able to, for a limited period until 28 February, to self-book a vaccination at a vaccination centre or community pharmacy led local vaccination service [online](#).

### Transport of Astra Zeneca Vaccine to GP Practices within the PCN Grouping

The NHSE/I has confirmed that the [SPS SOP](#) (Standard Operating Procedure) has been updated to make clear that the Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine does not need to be used immediately after being transported within the PCN grouping. The SOP states:

1.1.2. The vaccine should be used as soon as it is received or immediately put in a refrigerator to be administered as soon as possible thereafter. *This has been defined as meaning within 24 hours or over the following days.*

### Freeing up Practices to Support COVID-19 Vaccination

NHSE/I has written to practices and commissioners providing further measures [on freeing up practices to support COVID-19 vaccinations](#), following their [letter of 7 January 2021](#). The letter sets out the arrangements for additional funding for PCN clinical directors, and income protection arrangements for the Minor Surgery DES and QOF (Quality and Outcomes Framework).

### Vaccine Hesitancy

Surveys have shown stark differences by ethnic group in attitudes to COVID vaccines, and a quarter of younger women fear it would affect fertility. The BMA has published [guidance and resources](#) on how to communicate with different groups about the vaccine.

The British Fertility Society and Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists has also published some [COVID-19 Vaccines FAQs](#) to help address some of the vaccine hesitancy relating to fertility.

Read the BMA [guidance on the COVID-19 vaccination programme](#) which includes information about what is expected of practices and the support available to enable practices to prioritise vaccine delivery.

### **VACCINE DOSE DATA**

Over [13,5 million people in the UK](#) have received their first dose, and almost 525,000 have received their second dose. The latest [data report](#) show that as of 12 February a total of 12,3 million doses in total have been given in England.

In the 10 weeks since vaccinations against coronavirus began in the UK, a first dose has been given to more than 11.8 million people in England, more than 715,900 people in Wales, more than 1.1 million in Scotland and more than 373,400 in Northern Ireland. This is an incredible achievement and well done to all those that have made this possible.

### **THANK YOU FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

In his [daily statement on the Coronavirus](#) on 10 February, we were pleased to see the Prime Minister thanking all those involved in delivering COVID vaccines in local GP sites:

“And I want to thank all of those involved for their heroic efforts: the doctors, nurses, military medics, local authorities, transport planners, warehouse operatives, delivery drivers, countless volunteers, often working through the night or even digging out snowed-in vaccination centres, like the community effort at Alwoodley Medical Centre in Leeds last Saturday so GPs, nurses and their teams could deliver 1,200 doses that day.”

## **GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER ON NHS REFORM AND INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEMS**

The Government has now published [‘Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all’](#) – its white paper on new plans to reform the NHS, including proposals to make ICSs statutory and make major changes to way services are procured.

In January, the [BMA submitted a comprehensive response](#) to NHS England’s legislative proposals, on which the Government’s plans have been based, highlighting the importance of ensuring proper clinical, GP, and LMC representation. Our LMC submitted a response to the proposals too as detailed in previous newsletters.

The proposals set out that GPs will be one of the few required members of the ICS leadership, and that there will be a lot of flexibility around how place level (former CCG) working is organised and works.

## **CONTRACT AGREEMENT 2021/22 WEBINAR**

Following the recent [contract agreement for 2021/22](#), the BMA will be holding two contract virtual roadshows/webinars on the following dates:

24<sup>th</sup> February – 19.30-20.30

25<sup>th</sup> February – 12.30-13.30

Register [here](#).

A recording of the webinar will be available on the BMA website after the event.

## **ASSESSMENTS CARRIED OUT FOR DETENTION UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH TO TAKE PLACE IN PERSON**

Following a [ruling in case](#) bought by Devon Partnership NHS Trust against the Secretary of State, NHS England has issued directions to all mental health providers [not to carry out any assessments for the purposes of determining whether or not an individual should be detained under the act remotely](#) (by any medium). This applies to all members of a medical team involved in the

decision and should be considered as the overriding guidance until further notice.

## **AMENDMENTS TO EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARDS (EHICS) AND S1 FORMS (UK) REGULATIONS**

There have been some minor amendments to the GMS and PMS regulations relating to European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) and S1 forms, to allow for reciprocal healthcare arrangements with EU member states.

The change has been made via the [Reciprocal and Cross-Border Healthcare \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#) which support the process of EU exit. The amendments are within the contract regulations that govern *information relating to overseas visitors* (GMS regulation 74F and PMS regulation 67F) – where, if patients choose to provide EHIC, S1 or PRC details on registration, then GPs must forward those details to NHS Digital or NHS BSA.

The new wording allows for the possibility that, on registration, patients may in future submit other (unnamed) documents which are equivalent to EHICs or S1s, which could be required as part of a “listed healthcare arrangement” between the UK and an EU/EEA country (or the EU). However, at present, the UK government has not agreed to any listed healthcare arrangements which establish EHIC or S1 equivalent documents, so for now there is no possibility of patients submitting them.

## **GPC UK REGIONAL ELECTIONS**

Nominations for regional seats for GPC UK closed on 12th February. Voting will open at **12pm on Friday 19th February** for all seats, **until 19th March**. To submit your vote after they have opened, please visit <https://elections.bma.org.uk/>.

To participate in this election you must have a BMA web account, if you do not have one please click [here](#) to create one.

I am standing for election this year for our region across Herefordshire/Worcestershire/Warwickshire/Coventry for a three-session term from 2021-24 and would welcome your support. The Government White Paper on NHS reform and Integrated Care Systems has been released and the NHS faces reorganisation at a time when practices and their teams are exhausted and need time to recover from the pressures of the pandemic. It is more important than ever that we maintain our links with the GPC Executive Team and have the opportunity to provide feedback from our region in order to help shape the

future of our local Integrated Care Systems across the region. We must ensure that general practice is at the heart of ICSs and is resourced and supported to lead from within them. Dr Gillian Farmer, Worcestershire LMC Secretary

## **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](#).

### **Wellbeing Message from the CCG**

We are all aware of the significant impact that the pandemic has had on the health, wellbeing and resilience of colleagues across all aspects of the health, social care and emergency services. In addition the ever present stress of the impact of Covid 19 on your families and loved ones, colleagues have also been exposed to increased stress and risk in attending work. This has been further magnified by the need to provide guidance, reassurance, compassion and care for members of the public who are themselves distressed, exhausted, acutely unwell and at times angry with the developments over the last 12 months.

With this in mind we would like to raise awareness of the help and assistance that we can provide within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Healthy Minds service. We are able to provide bespoke talking therapies for all colleagues irrespective of their role in your organisations to assist with anxiety, low mood, stress and other common mental health problems. Referral is easy and can be completed via visiting <https://www.healthyminds.whct.nhs.uk/>. We are an NHS service and as such our care is free at the point of contact and confidential.

The Service Manager, Phill Morgan Henshaw is happy to answer any questions regarding referral and treatment and can be contacted on 01432 842200 or via [phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net](mailto:phill.morganhenshaw@nhs.net).

### **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:

[NHSE Everything you wanted to know about Allocations](#)  
[Vaccination of JCVI cohorts 5-6 and additional funding for vaccination in residential settings](#)

### **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 David Herold  
Riverside Surgery, Waterside, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1JP  
Tel: 01386 444400 Email: [d.herold@nhs.net](mailto:d.herold@nhs.net)

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**SECRETARY:** Dr Gillian Farmer  
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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)

## **Practice Manager Representatives:**

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

**First5 Rep:** Dr M Venables  
**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

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

Worcestershire – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Herefordshire – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021