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| **June 2024 – General Articles** |
| PSNC rebrands as Community Pharmacy England | **COVID-19 treatment eligibility and access to COVID-19 LFD test kits**At the beginning of April 2024, there were some changes in national guidance which meant that the groups of people eligible for COVID-19 treatments have greatly expanded. The following information aims to summarise and clarify the new guidance on treatment eligibility and testing for COVID-19.  ***Who is now eligible for COVID-19 treatments if they have symptoms and test positive for COVID-19?*** |
| * Those with [medical conditions](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/treatments-for-covid-19/) at high risk for progression to severe COVID‑19  OR
* People aged 85 years and over OR
* People aged >70 years AND are resident in a care home or are already hospitalised OR
* People who have a BMI of 35 kg/m*2* or more, diabetes or heart failure AND are resident in a care home or are already hospitalised OR
* People with end-stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device OR
* People on the organ transplant waiting list
* Individuals may be identified as eligible for COVID-19 treatment by their registered GP or by their hospital specialist

***How do you access COVID-19 LFDs for those who are eligible for treatment?**** Anyone who is eligible may pick up **free LFD test kits at a local pharmacy.**They should do this pre-emptively BEFORE they residents become symptomatic.
* For residents in adult social care settings, the care staff may provide a list of eligible people to their local pharmacy and **pick up free LFD kits (in advance of needing them) for their residents/clients**
* Click on [Find a pharmacy that offers free COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests - NHS (www.nhs.uk)](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies/find-a-pharmacy-that-offers-free-COVID-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests/) to see if a pharmacy is participating or you can ring your local pharmacy.
* NHS colleagues are working with NHS.uk to improve the functionality of these pages to make it easier for patients to see which of their local pharmacies are offering the service.
* If you are still not able to find a participating pharmacy, Integrated Care Boards should hold a list of all pharmacies offering the service in their areas. ICB details can be found here [local ICB](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/find-your-local-integrated-care-board/)

Care homes for residents over the age of 70 years should**ensure that they hold a small stock of covid-19 LFD test kits ready for use in the event that someone/several people become/s symptomatic.*****How do you access COVID-19 treatment for those who are eligible ?**** Local systems (ICBs) have until July 2024 to make arrangements for everyone who is eligible for treatment to be able to receive treatment as per the NICE guidelines published. [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta878/chapter/1-Recommendations](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta878/chapter/1-Recommendations)
* You will be able access treatment for eligible person via the registered GP, NHS111 or the hospital specialist  (note: UKHSA do not arrange treatment).  Local pathways may be set up before then, and if so, your GP, NHS111 or hospital specialist will know what to do.
* If your local system has not yet set up the arrangements for everyone who is eligible to receive treatment, then it is still worth carrying out an LFD test on symptomatic people who are eligible.  This is because, in the event of an outbreak, it provides very useful information for yourselves and for the local UKHSA Health Protection Team when you report an outbreak of acute respiratory infection (ARI) to them.
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|  | **Diabetes UK – Reverse the trend: reducing type 2 diabetes in young people**This report reveals a 40% rise in type 2 diabetes diagnoses in younger people between 2016–17 and 2022–23. There are now almost 168,000 people under 40 in the UK who live with type 2 diabetes, an increase of more than 47,000 since 2016–17. Diabetes UK is calling on all political parties to commit to tackling the alarming rise in cases of type 2 diabetes among this age group |
| .<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/about-us/news-and-views/diabetes-prevention-week-2024-action-needed-tackle-rising-type-2-cases?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14511474_NEWSL_HWB_2024-06-10&dm_i=21A8,8N14I,2NYYES,ZUD4R,1> |
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|  | **General election 2024: the health and care manifesto pledges**This resource is intended as a summary of the commitments the three largest parties in England have made for the NHS, social care and public health in their manifestos, associated costing documents and media reports ahead of the [general election](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/projects/priorities-for-health-care-general-election) on 4 July. <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/health-care-manifesto-pledges-election-2024?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14526791_NEWSL_weekly%20update%20170624&utm_content=Title_ElectionGrid&dm_i=21A8,8NCXZ,2NYYES,ZVMF9,1>  |
|  | **Inequalities in men’s health: why are they not being addressed?**Almost half of England’s population is male, yet inequalities in men’s health seldom get specific attention. The women’s health strategy for England shone a light on the health care needs of girls and women through their life course, highlighting areas specific to their health – such as maternity and the menopause – and inequalities in health outcomes. But the wide, and widening, health inequalities experienced by men also require focus. |
| Read more here: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/blogs/inequalities-mens-health-why-are-they-not-being-addressed?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14526568_NEWSL_HWB_2024-06-24&utm_content=Report1&dm_i=21A8,8NCRS,2NYYES,ZVLML,1>  |
|  | **Patient Information Forum:** **Using plain language in health information – a quick guide**The Patient Information Forum has published an update to its quick guide to using plain language in health information. The guide includes data on literacy challenges, top tips for writing in plain language, and advice on use of word economy and active language. It also offers advice on communicating risks and benefits and the use of artificial intelligence in the production of health information. |
| <https://pifonline.org.uk/resources/how-to-guides/using-plain-language-in-health-information/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14511474_NEWSL_HWB_2024-06-10&dm_i=21A8,8N14I,2NYYES,ZUAWJ,1>  |

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|  | **Are integrated care systems making progress on tackling health inequalities?**We know tackling health inequalities is what motivated many leaders to step into integrated care system (ICS) hotseats. But was it worth it? A recent flurry of surveys and studies are starting shed some systematic insight on that question and in particular how ICSs are allocating resources to tackling health inequalities, and what they are actually focusing on. |
| Read more here: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/blogs/integrated-care-systems-tackling-health-inequalities?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14526568_NEWSL_HWB_2024-06-24&utm_content=Report1&dm_i=21A8,8NCRS,2NYYES,ZVLML,1>  |

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| **Infection Prevention guidance and updates**  |
| 6 June | Department of Health and Social care Collection**Monthly statistics for adult social care (England)**Official statistics on a range of topics including infection control measures, COVID-19 vaccinations, flu vaccinations and testing for COVID-19 in adult social care settings.Added: 'Adult social care in England, monthly statistics: June 2024'. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monthly-statistics-for-adult-social-care-england?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=afad29ac-aa8a-469e-bc5a-3989fd48ed6a&utm_content=daily>  |
| 6 June | UK Health Security Agency Press release  **E. coli advice issued amid rise in cases** UKHSA is working with partners to investigate a Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) outbreak. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e-coli-advice-issued-amid-rise-in-cases?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1459b5e9-28a1-4073-ab72-ae2539d89a30&utm_content=daily>  |
| 11 June  | UK Health Security Agency Guidance **Pertussis: guidelines for public health management** Guidance for healthcare professionals on the public health management of pertussis (whooping cough). Added updated ‘Guidance on the management of cases of pertussis in England during the re-emergence of pertussis in 2024’, ‘Testing for pertussis in primary care’ and deleted ‘Guidelines for the public health management of pertussis (May 2018 | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-guidelines-for-public-health-management?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=df9aa97d-6b34-43cb-b8c5-a6f2f60d0b88&utm_content=daily>  |
| 11 June | UK Health Security Agency Guidance - new publication **Information for individuals who have whooping cough**Information for individuals who have whooping cough (pertussis). | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whooping-cough-diagnosis-information?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=84934b61-fd1c-4584-8841-c70312ce1688&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |

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| **Infection Prevention guidance and updates**  |
| 13 June | UK Health Security Agency Case study **VDEC develops a tool to reduce antimicrobial resistance to tuberculosis** VDEC developed a standardised assay reduce the development of antimicrobial resistance and improve patient treatment for tuberculosis.**VDEC is supporting a GBS vaccine to prevent newborn deaths** Antimicrobial resistance to Group B Streptococcus (GBS) antibiotics is growing. This puts newborns at risk. VDEC is supporting a new vaccine to cut antibiotic use. Added the PDF version of the case study. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/vdec-develops-a-tool-to-reduce-antimicrobial-resistance-to-tuberculosis?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=21ff79cc-dd9d-4819-b38d-1e3fa424f506&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> <https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/vdec-is-supporting-a-gbs-vaccine-to-prevent-newborn-deaths?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=fe0146ff-a2b2-41aa-873f-49dc35bbd421&utm_content=daily>  |
| 13 June  | UK Health Security Agency, NHS England and Dept. of Health & Social Care guidance **National flu immunisation programme plan 2024 to 2025**The annual flu letter describes the national flu immunisation programme and outlines which groups are eligible for flu vaccination. Updated link to JCVI advice on vaccines in the 'National flu immunisation programme 2024 to 2025 letter'. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan-2024-to-2025?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=7347d33f-ed80-40fc-b9e6-52ac89e4a426&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 14 June  | UK Health Security Agency Press release**E. coli advice issued amid rise in cases**UKHSA is working with partners to investigate a Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) outbreak. Content updated. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e-coli-advice-issued-amid-rise-in-cases?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=ea3a78d4-c323-4221-b101-1feb836e028b&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 14 June | UK Health Security Agency Guidance**Information for individuals who have whooping cough**Information for individuals who have whooping cough (pertussis).Updated information  | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whooping-cough-diagnosis-information?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=9058d751-e681-47a2-bcf2-1426fdc19675&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 17 June | UK Health Security Agency New publication Guidance**Pertussis: occupational vaccination of health care workers**Information for NHS occupational health departments on pertussis vaccination of healthcare workers. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-occupational-vaccination-of-health-care-workers?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=9a11ae07-f27b-4a1f-a1e1-177fec3dac9c&utm_content=daily>  |

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| **Infection Prevention guidance and updates**  |
| 24 June  | UK Health Security Agency Collection**Annual flu programme**Seasonal influenza (flu) is an unpredictable but recurring pressure that the NHS faces every winter. Vaccination offers the best protection. Updated for the 2024 to 2025 flu season.UK Health Security Agency Promotional material**Flu vaccination for children: leaflets and posters**Information and promotional resources to support the 2024 to 2025 annual flu vaccination programme. Updated for the 2024 to 2025 flu season.UK Health Security Agency Guidance**Flu vaccination in schools**Flu vaccination guidance and resources for schools. Updated for the 2024 to 2025 flu season.  | <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=3916b0ab-d460-41e5-ba0a-8b4201406293&utm_content=daily> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=f23b26ff-8a55-4e05-9507-8d5f3527355a&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=ce44f69b-ad6b-4ece-9dd2-06b58376a72c&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 24 June  | UK Health Security Agency new correspondenceRespiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programmes letterThis letter provides information on the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programmes from 1 September 2024. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-vaccination-programmes-letter?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4e62f75a-e28d-4148-90b5-1b391a5e89eb&utm_content=daily>  |
| 24 June | UK Health Security Agency Collection**Immunisation**Information for immunisation practitioners and other health professionals.Added link to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programme. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=ec960b0b-d0b2-47db-92d2-0cb0f8d63451&utm_content=daily>  |
| 26 June | UK Health Security Agency Government Guidance**Pregnancy: how to help protect you and your baby**This leaflet describes the vaccinations that help protect you and your baby during and after pregnancy. Updated to reflect changes to the Pertussis (whooping cough) programme. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pregnancy-how-to-help-protect-you-and-your-baby?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4182ba16-814c-4a53-bffa-f4703f0f3415&utm_content=daily> |
| 26 June | UK Health Security Agency Guidance**MenACWY vaccine: information for young people**A guide to the MenACWY vaccine – to protect teenagers and young people from meningitis and septicaemiaUpdated to include details of MenQuadfi vaccine used in this programme. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menacwy-vaccine-information-for-young-people?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=0447c9f5-0a2e-47dd-a621-a6efa698ee40&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |

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| **Other Topics - updates** |

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| 1 June | UK Parliament Committee**MPs hear that community pharmacy funding model is ‘broken’**Government must urgently reform the funding framework for community pharmacy if more clinical services are to be delivered and increasing demands for medication are to be met. | <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/81/health-and-social-care-committee/news/201769/mps-hear-that-community-pharmacy-funding-model-is-broken/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14510341_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202024-06-04&dm_i=21A8,8N091,2NYYES,ZU6NL,1>  |
| 2 June | UK Mission to the WTO, UN and Other International Organisations (Geneva)World news story**UK statement at 77th World Health Assembly on IHR amendments**UK statement on adoption of International Health Regulations amendments. Delivered on 1 June 2024 at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-at-77th-world-health-assembly-on-ihr-amendments?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=3256800b-7a63-4830-bf18-53e9fbd82337&utm_content=daily>  |
| 3 June | Home Office Guidance**Report modern slavery as a first responder**How you can report cases of modern slavery in the UK if you’re a first responder.Updated in line with the May 2024 changes to the modern slavery statutory guidance. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-modern-slavery-as-a-first-responder?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=965acfe5-1425-4dda-bc41-4c00133d5502&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 25 June | NHS EnglandPromotional material**Cervical screening: an easy guide**A leaflet about cervical screening by and for women with learning disabilities.The easy guide has been updated to remove signposting to Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and update terminology related to smear tests. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-easy-read-guide?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=a7d0813a-6bf2-4a78-8865-f4f92d7fb8c3&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |