

To all colleagues Surrey & Sussex LMCs

7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Colleagues

**Covid19 vaccination programme: update**

Colleagues will be aware this is a fast-moving situation and the LMC has two messages in this letter, the second is to provide an update on further guidance that NHS England has provided since Friday.

***The first message is to urge all colleagues to approach this matter in a professional and respectful way: few would dispute that General Practice's contribution to the national Covid19 vaccination programme has been rushed and badly organised, with conflicting and poorly timed communications.***

***This is a voluntary Enhanced Service; colleagues can legitimately participate in it or not without feeling either morally superior, or that not doing so is a disservice either to their patients or the NHS, or the country.***

***It is clear that some practices will sign up, and others will not. Both courses of action are being made on the basis of perfectly legitimate reasons, and both groups of colleagues will be acting professionally. No-one should feel coerced to act one way or the other by colleagues, or by the messages being received from CCGs or NHS England.***

***General Practitioners and their practice teams will need to continue to deliver care to patients and this will remain the primary responsibility for all practices, whether they do or do not contribute to the vaccination programme.***

In relation to information provided by NHS England, all documents are available at:  
[Coronavirus » Primary care guidance \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care-guidance/)

**1) The Covid19 Enhanced Service Vaccination Collaborative Agreement.**

If practices sign the ES, they will need to contribute to the vaccination programme collectively. This may be on a PCN footprint, or, more widely, recognising some practices may not be participating. In order to formalise this collaboration all participating practices will need to sign the Collaborative Agreement, and NHS England has published a template which practices should read before agreeing to participate, since participation requires the Collaborative Agreement is signed.

Local Medical Committees for  
Croydon, Kingston & Richmond, Surrey,  
East Sussex and West Sussex

The White House    T: 01372 389270  
18 Church Road    F: 01372 389271  
Leatherhead  
Surrey KT22 8BB    [www.sslmcs.co.uk](http://www.sslmcs.co.uk)

## **2) Legal Mechanism for the administration of Covid19 Vaccine(s)**

The pace of this programme means the normal legal mechanism for delivering Covid19 vaccine(s), a Patient Group Direction (PGD), will not be in place before vaccine delivery begins. A PSD (Patient Specific Direction) under the framework within this guidance will be used as an interim measure. This will affect delivery, as it reduces the numbers that can be vaccinated per hour and colleagues should review the modelling at Annex A in this guidance.

## **3) Wave 1 mobilisation of Designated Sites**

This has already occurred; all CCGs were asked to identify a limited number of primary care sites that could be ready to delivery vaccines in the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> December.

This letter also reminded colleagues that one modelled parameter has changed, and that vaccine delivery will need to occur within 3.5 days, rather than 5.

All such identified sites will be contacted today (Monday 7<sup>th</sup>) to ensure arrangements are in place, although it is not expected all sites will in fact receive vaccine deliveries.

In addition, a number of changes have already been made to the Enhanced Service specification, including: -

- GP practices will need to work together as a joint enterprise
- patients attending a designated site will attend what will be deemed to be a temporary single medical practice (to satisfy Regulation 3(8)(b) of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012)
- patients who attend the Designated Site and who are registered with non-participating practices can be vaccinated by the collaborative group who will be reimbursed the normal IoS fee for that vaccination
- some degree of flexibility has been introduced to minimise vaccine wastage.

I would again urge all colleagues to approach this matter by considering the long-term commitment that this Enhanced Service requires, the support that may be available from the CCG and other third-party organisations, and the continuing need to deliver primary care medical services appropriately from your practice. Each practice should make its own decision and having done so colleagues should remain professionally respectful and supportive as the vaccination programme continues.

With best wishes



Dr Julius Parker  
**Chief Executive**