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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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- ❖ [Sanofi Pasteur dose reduction to your flu vaccine order 2021/22](#)
- ❖ [Referring patients with minor illness symptoms to a community pharmacist](#)
- ❖ [Public Health England Laboratory Birmingham handbooks](#)
- ❖ [Launch of Birmingham and Solihull General Practice COVID capacity expansion fund 2021 – Bsol Practices](#)
- ❖ [Evidencing COVID-19 vaccinations for international travel](#)

### 1. Sanofi Pasteur dose reduction to your flu vaccine order for 2021/22

Some of you may (or may not) have seen the communication below from Sanofi Pasteur, but for heads up we felt we ought to reiterate the message .... (thank you to our Business Manager colleague in General Practice who notified us of this). We believe this issue has already been raised with the CCG and we will also be taking this up with them shortly.

#### **SANOFI PASTEUR: DOSE REDUCTION TO YOUR FLU VACCINE ORDER FOR 2021/22**

**We are sorry to inform you that, due to an increase in global demand, we unfortunately need to reduce your order from Sanofi Pasteur for QIVe.**

As a result, we are unable to fulfil 30% of your order of QIVe for the 2021/22 season. These doses will be automatically reduced from your order.

To meet your flu vaccine needs you may wish to consider:

Contacting another supplier.

Contacting your Sanofi Pasteur Vaccine Account Manager or customer services on 0800 854 430 (option 1) to source an alternative flu vaccine, as recommended in the NHS guidance<sup>1</sup>.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused and are here to support you through this unprecedented period.

With Regards,

Sanofi Pasteur Flu Team

[GBfluinbox@sanofi.com](mailto:GBfluinbox@sanofi.com)

0800 854 430 (option 1)

**SANOFI PASTEUR** 



## 2. Referring patients with minor illness symptoms to a community pharmacist

Practices can refer patients contacting them with minor illness symptoms for a same day consultation with a community pharmacist, using the referral pathway to the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service.

[The RCGP are hosting a webinar](#) on 27 May to explain how the referral pathway works, the benefits to practices and patients and how to start using it, hearing from GPs, practice managers and pharmacists. For more information on the pathway visit the [CPCS Future NHS page](#).

## 3. Public Health England Laboratory Birmingham handbooks

PHE's Laboratory in Birmingham would like to remind practices where the following handbooks can be found.

[Routine diagnostic referral work](#) - for individual test information, click 'our tests' or find them listed under 'microbiology' in the departments section.

[Work specific to public health](#) - please see 'the Midlands public health laboratory, Birmingham'.

## Bsol CCG Practices

### 1. Launch of Birmingham and Solihull General Practice COVID capacity expansion fund 2021

**Action: practice sign-up required by Monday 17 May for funds to be transferred to practices by June**

The General Practice COVID capacity expansion fund is being extended for the period from 1 April to 30 September 2021.

Accessing the fund will be conditional on practices continuing to complete national appointment and workforce data in line with existing contractual requirements.

The funding will be expected to support seven priority goals as set out in [this letter](#), the practice actions in the previous scheme have been refreshed and practices have up until Monday 17 May to sign up to access the fund to enable funding to be transferred to the practice by June.

Please click below for:

[Refreshed guidance document](#)

[Flu plan template - appendix 1a](#)

[Practice data list cleansing template - appendix 1b](#)

[Practice sign-up form - appendix 2](#)



## COVID-19 UPDATE

### 1. Evidencing COVID-19 vaccinations for international travel

Following the ministerial announcement on Friday 7 May which mentioned the impending lift of international travel on the 17 May, and subsequently the need to evidence COVID-19 vaccinations before travelling to international destinations, NHSX arranged for initial information to be made available online on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

The information will support the public with any initial enquiries they may have and is designed to divert enquiries away from primary care.

Countries will decide whether they require proof of COVID-19 vaccination for entry, and it is the traveller's responsibility to check individual requirements. If needed, people in England who have both vaccine doses will be able to demonstrate their COVID-19 vaccination status via the NHS App from 17 May. Those without access to the app can request a letter from the NHS proving their vaccination status by calling 119.

More information will become available this week, which NHSX will cascade via existing primary care channels.

In preparation for the requests that may arrive in general practice, please see below all relevant links that you may wish to use to provide messages on your websites and signpost patients to, with some suggested draft text if at all helpful.

"Thank you for contacting the surgery enquiring about COVID vaccination certification.

We are unable to issue this certificate at the practice.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/demonstrating-your-covid-19-vaccination-status-when-travelling-abroad> for further information.

Proof of your vaccination status will be available on the NHSapp, (\*\* you may choose to delete this -which is also valuable for accessing your health records and ordering repeat prescriptions\*\*)

The NHSapp can be downloaded from <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/nhs-app/id1388411277> for iPhone or <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nhs.online.nhsonline> for android.

Alternatively, you can call the NHS helpline on 119 (from 17 May) and ask for a letter to be posted to you. This must be at least 5 days after you've completed your course of the vaccine, the letter may take up to 5 days to reach you.

Kind regards \*Your Surgery\* "



**Please note that the LMC are unable to accept calls or hold communications with patients, we are GP representatives, and we would respectfully ask that Practices do not advise patients to contact us. Could we also remind Practices that any copies of patient related correspondence MUST be anonymised as the LMC cannot accept patient identifiable data.**

Please note our office contact times remain 10:00-16:00 and any queries on the day should be directed to [birmingham.lmc@nhs.net](mailto:birmingham.lmc@nhs.net) as we are currently remote working so would be grateful if all contact were made via the nhs.net email.

#### **Helpful Links:**

**BMA COVID-19: toolkit for GPs and GP practices** <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/gp-practices/covid-19-toolkit-for-gps-and-gp-practices> Comprehensive guidance for GPs, partners, and practice managers to manage employment and contractual issues and service provision during the coronavirus pandemic.

**GOVERNMENT WEBSITE:** <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> for recent and upcoming changes, guidance & support.

**NHS ENGLAND:** <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/implementing-phase-3-of-the-nhs-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>