**WIGAN LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

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# **Wigan LMC Hot Topics Bulletin 16th July 2021**

**Coping with Covid-19:**

**Covid-19 removal of Government enforcements on social distancing- continuation of Public Health England guidance Health Care premises.**

Whilst the Government has announced the withdrawal of guidance and enforcement of social distancing and the wearing of face coverings in many public places from Monday 19th July, these will remain a requirement for patients’ staff and visitors attending NHS health care premises.

The NHS Chief Nurse has released a statement reminding Health Care premises users and health care staff that Public Health England guidance on the wearing of masks and social distancing, will remain in force. This means NHS visitor guidance will stay in place across all health services including hospitals, GP practices, dental practices, optometrists, and pharmacies to ensure patients and staff are protected The NHS will support health care staff in ensuring this guidance is followed.

It is unlikely that patients will be aware of this, and practices might wish to use a notice prepared by the LMC informing patients and others of the continuing guidance and the need to ‘mask up’ and distance when attending the Surgery, Additionally, that open ‘walk in access to practice premises is still restricted to maintain Covid infection control.

The Statement by the Chief Nurse on PHE health premises guidance is here.-

[NHS England » NHS Patients, staff and visitors must continue to wear face coverings in healthcare settings](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/07/nhs-patients-staff-and-visitors-must-continue-to-wear-face-coverings-in-healthcare-settings/)

The LMC’s notice is here-



**Covid-19: revised Government advice on shielding:**

Accompanying the announcement on the relaxation on restrictions on the public the Government has revised its guidance on shielding and vulnerable patients.

Shielding has been ‘paused’ and vulnerable persons are expected to follow the guidance which applies to ‘everyone’ from 19th July.

This may result in considerable anxiety among vulnerable patients who may feel apprehensive about visiting the practice surgery. The notice mentioned above may provide some reassurance.

[Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)

An interesting view of the relaxation of protective measures on 19th July appeared in the Lancet- if you missed it, you can read it here-

[Mass infection is not an option: we must do more to protect our young - The Lancet](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01589-0/fulltext)

**Covid-19 Vaccination programme stage 3:**

NHSE has published the enhanced service specification for Stage 3 of the COVID 19 vaccination programme and an accompanying letter from Dr N Kanani NHS Primary Care Medical Care Director and Caroline Temmnik., Director of Vaccinations. Stage 3 –vaccination and revaccination ( the booster ):

* will continue to be contracted on a collaborative PCN basis.
* the Fee of £12.58 plus an additional incentive of £10 per vaccination in care homes is continued
* practices must opt in and declare their participation by 28 July ( unless the CCG specifies a later date)

Practices opting in, via their PCN, will, on commencement of Stage 3, relinquish their Stage 1 & 2 ES Contract – i.e., all subsequent vaccinations will be delivered under the Stage 3 ES.

Designated premises/sites for the delivery of Stage 3 are required and discussions are underway to enable the continuing use of the existing designated sites in the Wigan Borough

If you have not yet seen the letter from NHSE and the Stage ES specification these are here

 

The GPC BMA has voiced disappointment that the Stage 3 programme has not been designated to run alongside season Flu vaccination and be conducted in practice. See here:

[Covid booster ES specifications ‘will do nothing to regain confidence among GPs’ in England - BMA media centre - BMA](https://www.bma.org.uk/bma-media-centre/covid-booster-es-specifications-will-do-nothing-to-regain-confidence-among-gps-in-england)

The logistics of vaccine s delivery cited by the NHSE and the view that Covid-19 has not yet subsided (clinically and politically) to a seasonal virus, has, it seems, determined the approach.

**Health and Care Bill published:**

The legislation which will abolish local CCGs and create the Integrated Care Body at Regional level and the Integrated Care Partnerships at local level has been published.

For those undaunted by the dense legal prose of Parliamentary drafting or those seeking a sure-fire cure for insomnia a copy of the Bill is here:



A more digestible summary has been prepared by the GPC /BMA- this is here:



**Consistency- vice or a virtue?- you be the judge:**

<https://youtu.be/-8CZUpIue8E>

(skip the ads)

and another more adept illusionist at work -

[(410) Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/629307747937002812/)

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If you have a query about any of the above items, please contact the LMC office at [wiganlmc@nhs.net](mailto:wiganlmc@nhs.net)

Alternatively contact Joe Chattin on 07984160601

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