

# COVID-19 GP Update 31 March 2020

## New NHS text service



A new service was launched on Saturday where new patients who register their Covid-19 symptoms and contact details with the 111 online service will receive daily texts from the NHS. The messages will check how people are and ensure that those who need help to get them through the isolation period receive it. The text messages will be sent as a reassurance to those who contact NHS 111 online, complete the assessment, and leave basic information such as their age, mobile number and when their symptoms started.

## Right to work verification for returning doctors

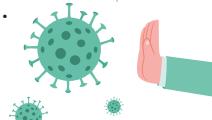
NHS England are working to get clinicians who wish to offer their support back into practice as quickly and as safely as possible. In order to return to work, individuals will need to complete identification and right to work verification.

Returning GPs may choose to undertake verification online; others may visit their local practice in order to complete the process in person. You are being asked to help in completing this verification.

If a returning GP asks your practice team to help them with verification, you are requested to do the following:

- Check the documents presented and satisfy themselves that they are consistent with the appearance of the individual.
- Take a photocopy or a scanned copy of each of the documents presented.
- Complete the identification checklist which can be found here along with further information about the process.
- Send scanned copies of the verified documents and the checklist to the GP's employer at Covid19.CAS@nhs.net from your organisation's NHS.net account, or another encrypted account if this is not possible.

## Identifying and supporting patients at highest clinical risk from Coronavirus



- All patient letters generated by the central process have now been distributed and should have been received via Royal Mail.
- In line with the letters from CMO and NHSE/I, all patients included in the CMO defined cohort that could be identified through centrally available data should have been flagged in practice IT systems.
- GPs should have received a report from their system supplier. This report can be run locally on your practice IT systems – you will not receive separate notice about this.
- If your practice have not yet got your patient flags, or report, please contact your IT system supplier and let NHSE know immediately, via: [England.covid-highestrisk@nhs.net](mailto:England.covid-highestrisk@nhs.net) Please do not send any lists of patients or other patient identifiable data to that email address.
- After the next update we would like practices to review the list for accuracy and identify any additional patients who meet the CMO's original criteria but are not included amongst those identified. NHSE will provide further details of how this should be done via GP system suppliers.
- As set out in the CMO letter, there may be other patients, not included in the original CMO cohort, that GPs consider to be in the highest risk category and who should be advised to shield. We expect this to be small numbers; shielding will only be effective if we focus these most stringent protective measures on those at the highest clinical risk.

NHSE will be in touch later this week to confirm a streamlined process for reviewing and updating your lists. We advise you wait for this before running any further searches

## DID YOU KNOW?

### NHSmail for GP Locums

Did you know that GP Locums can register for NHSmail?

For more information visit [this webpage](#) or complete the registration form [here](#)

### NHS discounts

NHS England and NHS Improvement has published a list of verified offers/discounts for NHS staff so you can take advantage of them. It includes all offers that we have been able to confirm so far across supermarkets, food and transport. The list includes details of how to access the offers, and any terms and conditions to be aware of.

### Health, Safety and Well being

NHS Employers provide some excellent advice for you and your teams during these challenging times.

