

## **MSE COVID-19 BROADCAST TELECONFERENCE 6 MAY NOTES**

### **PPE**

The CCGs recognise that whilst supply chains are working around the clock to fulfil delivery requests, practices are experiencing delays with this suppliers of PPE. As such, we have put in place a process to support practices where their established route fails to deliver within its expected timeframe. The arrangement the CCGs have put in place can only be effective if practices continue to use their established supply routes as the first line for accessing PPE and that practices ensure that they try to forecast use of PPE to enable deliveries to be timely. In short, the CCGs PPE arrangement;

- a. Must not be used as a first line route for accessing PPE
- b. Can only be used where practices demonstrate that orders have been made to other suppliers and that these have failed to deliver in time.
- c. Will only provides a limited supply of PPE equipment for short term under stock ordered through the national system arrives (i.e. 3-5 days)
- d. Will only provide the range of PPE appropriate to the procedures that are intended to be undertaken
- e. Is not a guaranteed service and can only provide where sufficient stock should be sourced. This service cannot operate if abused. Usage of this service by each practice will be monitored closely.
- f. Whilst the CCG will support practices accessing fall back supply of PPE, It is the role of practices, as employers to ensure that staff are provided with the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to do their job safely.

To access this service please email [Meccg.essex.pcppe@nhs.net](mailto:Meccg.essex.pcppe@nhs.net). You will be asked to provide evidence of orders via other supply routes and be able to provide specific requirements for stock for 3-5 days use. This will need to include type of stock and size where appropriate. If approved, a member of practice staff will be required to attend a central venue to collect this stock.

### **Shielding Patients**

In today's local primary care bulletin, is some additional information from NHS E in regards to shielded patients. Included within this is an easy read guide regarding the support on offer to shielded patients including access to food and medications, mental health and wellbeing support, healthcare at home and advice on employment and financial support. In addition to this, a word version of the at risk patient letter is included. Practices should ensure that where they have not already done so, this letter is sent to any patients that the practice have added to the shielded list. It should be noted that the current NHS E advice for shielded patients is that they should shield until the 30<sup>th</sup> June regardless of when they were added to the shielded list. This position is regularly reviewed.

### **NEW WEBSITE\* FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN MID AND SOUTH ESSEX:**

As part of our response to COVID-19, we have been developing a website for local healthcare professionals with key information and resources to support communication during COVID-19, particularly information around the changes in services (to save you having to look through multiple e-bulletins).

**The URL is: <https://coronavirus.msehealthandcarepartnership.co.uk>**

We have worked with primary care colleagues both clinical and non-clinical in the development of the site. Thanks to all those involved!

The website has two main sections, one for all health and care staff and a specific section for staff working in GP practice.

As this is an evolving situation the information will of course change. Materials will be updated and changed as appropriate so please check for the latest version. Note: the website includes information about the date the information was last updated.

To feedback on the website, or suggest content, please email:  
[meccg.essex.incident.comms@nhs.net](mailto:meccg.essex.incident.comms@nhs.net)

### **Maternity Direct**

The MSE Hospital Group have announced the launch of the Maternity Direct service which is now available for all pregnant women and new mums who have registered their pregnancy at one of the following 3 Trusts that form the MSE Hospital group:

- Mid Essex Hospitals
- Southend University Hospital
- Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals

Women can now self-refer by sending an online referral form to their maternity service of choice. The form can be accessed via the following link

<https://connect.btuh.nhs.uk/MaternityDirect/> or by visiting any of the Hospital websites.

Completing an online referral to receive maternity care at one of the 3 MSE hospitals of the woman's choice, initiates a unique referral ID for every woman which provides them with immediate access to the app and its functions.

Developed by midwives from Basildon Hospital in partnership with women via the Maternity Voices Partnership, the Maternity Direct application was launched at this Trust in August 2019. The app has many functions which include the opportunity for women to chat online with a registered midwife with the reassurance that this will both take place and be stored within a secure environment, access to up to date evidence based health information and storage of the woman's individualised personalised care plan in an interactive platform enabling her to build this in partnership with her midwife.

Feedback from women using this service currently is overwhelmingly positive which has prompted the extension of the service to women registered with maternity services at Southend and Mid Essex Hospitals. Nearly 80% of the women who have chatted with midwives via the app said they would have used another NHS service – such as a GP appointment or NHS 111 – if it wasn't available.

The rollout of Maternity Direct highlights how the recent merger of the three acute trusts to form Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust is improving the sharing of innovation and expertise for the benefit of women and their families.