

Covid-19: Primary Care and local restrictions

You will be aware of the announcement made late Thursday 30 July by the Government, about the additional restrictions that are now in place in Greater Manchester and parts of Lancashire, including Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Rossendale.

We wanted to draw your attention to the official press release with the announcement, which can be found here www.gov.uk/government/news/new-rules-on-gatherings-in-some-parts-of-northern-england; and there is some further detail here www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-of-england-local-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do.

These latest announcements do not currently affect how our GP practices, pharmacies, dental surgeries or optometry services operate.

We would ask that you carry on operating as you are, but ensure maximum safety for yourselves and your staff, maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and the wearing of face coverings. It goes without saying that remote consultations wherever possible are essential, and that appropriate PPE is worn when seeing patients, face to face.

The key message being communicated to the public is that the NHS remains open for business and that all appropriate measures are in place to ensure the safety of our NHS colleagues and patients.

We wanted to thank you and your teams for all the incredible work you have done and continue to do in our response to COVID-19.

If you have any queries or require any further information or advice, please contact the local NHSEI team on:

england.primarycarecomms@nhs.net for general practice

england.gmdental@nhs.net for dentistry

england.gmdental@nhs.net for optometry and pharmacy providers

If there are any further developments, we will update you.