**COVID-19 29/05/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

As you will all be aware we are now entering the next phase in the fight against COVID-19 where some relaxation of restrictions is happening and people will be allowed to come together in small groups as long as social distancing measures are continued.

You should also be aware that Test and Protect will commence today with the possibility of further isolation of groups relating to positive tests a real threat.  This will pose its own problems within the Community Pharmacy network and collectively we will need to minimise this threat as much as we can to ensure that we protect ourselves, the service we provide as well as the communities we serve.

With this in mind I would like to echo the words of Harry McQuillan (CEO for CPS) by asking you all to:-

1. Enforce 2m social distancing which will include patient management, staggered break/lunch times, shift working etc;
2. Wear PPE masks when in the pharmacy at ALL times; and
3. Ensure a thorough hand washing routine is adhered to at all times.

It is imperative at this time that your business continuity plans are reviewed and actions are in place to deal with all eventualities. This should include ensuring that you have a list of your vulnerable patients with their pharmaceutical care needs clearly identified (e.g. OST, HIV, Hep C, weekly dispensed, dosette patients etc.) that can then be referred to in the event of the need to transfer the care of those patients to another pharmacy should it be required.

The network has been immense in standing up to the challenge of the virus so far and I am sure that collectively and collaboratively we can meet the new challenges that could potentially be coming our way.

Kind Regards

Alan

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My normal working week is Monday to Thursday - i will be temporarily working 5 days a week until further notice