

Test & Protect

- Important guidance was sent on 29th May regarding social-distancing and use of PPE in practice. Please ensure you are familiar with this guidance.
- As a result of the Test and Protect process now in place there is a risk of community pharmacy closures due to pharmacy teams requiring to self isolate for 14 days.
- All community pharmacies are encouraged to update their business continuity plans and ensure information on vulnerable patients including OST, weekly dispensing and patients prescribed clozapine for example are recorded somewhere within the pharmacy.
- If you are at risk of closure because of increased workload, staff illness or isolation requirements additional support can be requested by completing the Additional Resource Request Form found here - <https://pharmacies.nhsforthvalley.com/>
- If you have not already done so please submit a signed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding, this would be required before additional resource could be provided. This was most recently emailed to all contractors by Community Pharmacy Scotland on 1st June.

Alcohol and Drug Services

- Please remember council staff or third sector staff should not be collecting OST (methadone or buprenorphine) for a patient.
- Any individual collecting OST for a patient should be a nominated buddy as indicated by their prescribing service, Change Grow Live (CGL) colleague or CADS staff carrying I.D.
- Any queries around the suitability of an individual collecting medication of any description should be reported to the prescribing service.

NHS Near Me

- [PCA \(P\)\(2020\) 11](#), which was distributed last week, outlined that NHS Near Me was being implemented in Community Pharmacy. Near Me is a video consultation platform which can be used as an additional tool to help you deliver NHS Pharmacy Services. To utilise Near Me within your pharmacy, you need access to a device with the following:
 - ✓ Webcam, speaker and mic
 - ✓ Reliable internet connection
 - ✓ Chrome or Safari browser
- If you meet the hardware and technical requirements and would like to offer this service to your patients, you can opt in by completing the application form for a Near Me waiting area which is available on the [NHS Scotland National Video Conferencing Service website](#). If you have any questions about Near Me, please contact Suzanne MacCrimmon on 07920 294443 or at suzanne.maccrimmon@nhs.net.
- **Although the circular states a minimum upload speed requirement of 0.7Mbps for Near Me, the existing SWAN service provided to Community Pharmacies (0.5Mbps) has, so far, been sufficient for Near Me video consultations in the test sites across Scotland.**