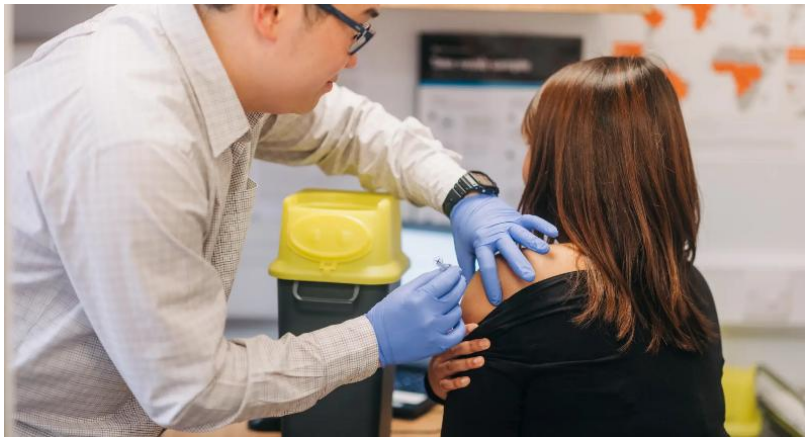
Community Pharmacy Essex

Essex LPC – Website

This newsletter is sent as required and contains useful information for community pharmacy owners in Essex. Stay informed with updates in our newsletter and visit our website at the link below



Autumn/Winter Vaccination Programme Launched Yesterday

As you are likely already experiencing, the adult Flu and COVID-19 vaccination service officially went live yesterday**, Thursday 1st October 2026.**

Childhood Flu Service Overview

Under the expanded NHS England service specification effective 1st October 2026, participating pharmacies can now vaccinate:

- **Children aged 2 to 3 years (aged 2 or 3 on 31st August 2026).**
- **At-risk children aged 2 to 17 years in clinical risk groups.**

School-aged children without underlying risk factors will continue to receive their vaccinations primarily through School-Aged Immunisation Services, with pharmacy access opening from 1st December 2026 for those who missed their school session.)

Practical Tips & Reminders - Ensure all NHS vaccinations are recorded promptly via the Record a Vaccination Service (RAVS) system and double-check your daily fridge temperature logs, verify stock levels, and review clinical eligibility criteria in the Green Book before administering doses.

A huge thank you to all the pharmacy teams who hit the ground running yesterday for the launch of the Vaccination Programme. Having visited a few sites today and Angela speaking with several teams, it is clear just how busy you are.

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Christmas & New Year Opening Hours 2026

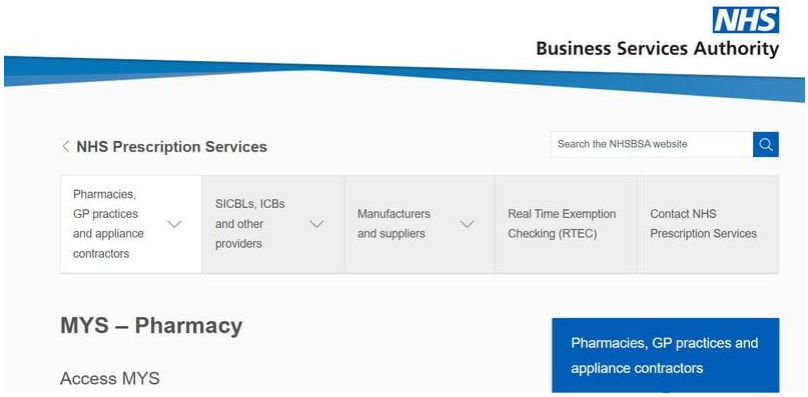
We have received a few calls lately into the LPC office; we would like to advise pharmacy owners to review their festive opening arrangements as soon as possible to ensure all necessary notifications and applications are submitted within the required regulatory timescales.

• **Boxing Day Working Day:** Saturday 26th December 2026 is classified as a normal working day for community pharmacies, with the substitute bank holiday falling on Monday 28th December 2026.

• **Changing Supplementary Hours**: If you plan to alter your supplementary opening hours over the festive period, complete the required notification form and submit it directly to ceicb.pharmacy@nhs.net.

• **Changing Core Hours**: Information and application forms to request changes to core opening hours are available via Community Pharmacy England and the ICB.

• Regulations & Guidance: For detailed rules on core vs. supplementary hours, notifications, and appeals, review the CPE Bank Holiday Opening Hours Briefing or catch up with the Pharmacy Regulations: Opening Hours Webinar (and slides).



Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2026

The 2026 Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey is now open and closes on **14th November 2026**.

Completion is mandatory for all pharmacy owners in England. You can submit your data directly by logging into the NHSBSA Manage Your Service (MYS) portal.

If you need any support with your survey submission, please contact the NHSBSA team at **pharmacysupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk**.

Stoptober is HERE! “Let's Quit Smoking Together”

We would like to encourage all pharmacy teams in Essex to get involved in Stoptober! Ensure your staff are fully trained to deliver advice and signpost patients effectively throughout October.

Campaign Resources & Operational Guidance

• **Key Action: Accessing Official Campaign Resources** All official Stoptober assets are available digitally via the Stoptober 2026 | Campaigns | Campaign Resource Centre .

• If not already done, download digital screens, social media statics/animations, and print-ready poster files to display across your pharmacy channels.

• Editable Canva templates (for adding your pharmacy logo or local contact details) can be requested directly by emailing **partnerships@dhsc.gov.uk**.

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