**NHS NETWORKS weekly news stories:**  
11:30am, 17 July 2020  
[Optometrists advise how to wear glasses with facemasks to prevent fogging](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/optometrists-advise-how-to-wear-glasses-with-facemasks-to-prevent-fogging)  
Wearing a facemask or face covering is becoming the new normal, but one of the minor problems of the COVID-19 pandemic is fogged-up eyewear.  
  
11:28am, 17 July 2020  
[The road to renewal: five priorities for health and care](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/the-road-to-renewal-five-priorities-for-health-and-care)  
The King’s Fund has published The road to renewal which identifies priorities for the renewal of the health and social care system after the first peak of Covid-19. Alongside recovery of core services, lessons need to be learned to ensure the health and social care system can drive the greatest possible improvements in health and wellbeing over the coming years.  
  
11:21am, 17 July 2020  
[The hidden impact of COVID-19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/the-hidden-impact-of-covid-19)  
The BMA published a report revealing the sheer scale of the hidden impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – with millions of patients not receiving planned operations, treatments and appointments.  
  
11:19am, 17 July 2020  
[Doctors urged to have their say on workplace training](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/doctors-urged-to-have-their-say-on-workplace-training)  
The General Medical Council’s (GMC) annual national training survey (NTS), postponed in March due to coronavirus, is to launch later this month in a shorter format that will be easier and quicker to complete.  
  
11:17am, 17 July 2020  
[Learning from health workers experiences crucial](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/learning-from-health-workers-experiences-crucial)  
Responding to the Welsh Parliament’s Health, Social Care and Sport Committee’s survey of health workers on the impact of COVID-19 on their lives, Nesta Lloyd-Jones, Assistant Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation said “It would be hard for anyone to disagree that health and care workers have been at the forefront of this crisis. They have been there to save our lives, look after our most vulnerable and they have seen the very worst this virus has to offer”.  
  
11:04am, 17 July 2020  
[Evaluating digital health products](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/evaluating-digital-health-products-1)  
The government has published resources to help anyone developing or running a digital health product to conduct an evaluation.  
  
11:02am, 17 July 2020  
[COVID-19: guidance for sampling and for diagnostic laboratories](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-guidance-for-sampling-and-for-diagnostic-laboratories)  
Information for clinical diagnostic laboratories regarding safety, sampling and packaging specimens associated with COVID-19.  
  
11:01am, 17 July 2020  
[In-person coronavirus testing continues to deliver results the next day](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/in-person-coronavirus-testing-continues-to-deliver-results-the-next-day)  
The sixth week of NHS Test and Trace figures shows anyone getting a test at a regional test site or mobile testing unit can expect their result by the next day. Despite an increase in tests this week, fewer people have tested positive and there have been fewer outbreaks or complex cases.  
  
11:00am, 17 July 2020  
[Delivery of the HPV vaccine and impact of school closures](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/delivery-of-the-hpv-vaccine-and-impact-of-school-closures)  
The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's (JCVI) has published a statement on delivery of the human papillomavirus (HPV) programme in light of school closures associated with coronavirus (COVID-19).  
  
10:59am, 17 July 2020  
[NHS ‘Exemplars’ to help close inequality gap for people with a learning disability](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-2018exemplars2019-to-help-close-inequality-gap-for-people-with-a-learning-disability)  
NHS England and NHS Improvement has today called on local NHS organisations across the country to become learning disability ‘Exemplars’ to help drive forward improvements in care putting the health of people with a learning disability firmly on the agenda.  
  
11:37am, 16 July 2020  
[Provisions for personal development found for juniors](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/provisions-for-personal-development-found-for-juniors)  
Foundation doctors will receive dedicated time for self-development and a raft of other provisions, as part of a new workplace charter lobbied for by the BMA.  
  
11:33am, 16 July 2020  
[Primary care leaders call for greater freedom](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/primary-care-leaders-call-for-greater-freedom)  
GPs, pharmacists and nurses who are responsible for leading networks of general practices in England want greater flexibility and autonomy to work in a way that is more responsive to their local populations.  
  
11:32am, 16 July 2020  
[New guidance on supporting staff with childcare responsibilities](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-guidance-on-supporting-staff-with-childcare-responsibilities)  
With schools welcoming back children in all year groups from September, NHS Employers have created new guidance on how employers can support their staff with childcare responsibilities.  
  
11:31am, 16 July 2020  
[Patients Registered at a GP Practice July 2020](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/patients-registered-at-a-gp-practice-july-2020)  
Data for this publication are extracted each month as a snapshot in time from the Primary Care Registration database within the NHAIS (National Health Application and Infrastructure Services) system. This release is an accurate snapshot as at 1 July 2020.  
  
11:30am, 16 July 2020  
[Recorded Dementia Diagnoses June 2020](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/recorded-dementia-diagnoses-june-2020)  
NHS Digital collects and publishes data about people with dementia at each GP practice, so that informed choices can be made to plan services.  
  
11:28am, 16 July 2020  
[Data collection will aid research into coronavirus trends in care settings](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/data-collection-will-aid-research-into-coronavirus-trends-in-care-settings)  
The Social Care Data Collection for Pandemic Planning and Research will collect existing, anonymised data on the COVID-19 status of care givers and care receivers directly from IT systems.  
  
11:26am, 16 July 2020  
[COVID-19: background information](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-background-information)  
Information on COVID-19 including epidemiology, virology and clinical features.  
  
11:14am, 16 July 2020  
[Testing programme for coronavirus publishes initial findings](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/testing-programme-for-coronavirus-publishes-initial-findings)  
Over 120,000 volunteers were tested across England between 1 May and 1 June as part of the country’s largest study into coronavirus.  
  
14:31pm, 15 July 2020  
[Advice and Guidance toolkit for the NHS e-Referral Service](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/advice-and-guidance-toolkit-for-the-nhs-e-referral-service)  
Advice and Guidance (A&G) services enable secure and rapid communication between primary and secondary care colleagues across a range of specialities.  
  
14:28pm, 15 July 2020  
[New animated video to support total triage in general practice](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-animated-video-to-support-total-triage-in-general-practice)  
As part of Health Education England's (HEE) e-learning programme for COVID-19, a remote total triage in general practice resource has been developed by the NHS England Digital First Primary Care Team and HEE to support all GP practices in England with the rapid implementation of a ‘total triage’ model.  
  
13:58pm, 15 July 2020  
[Employing a provisionally-registered pharmacist](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/employing-a-provisionally-registered-pharmacist)  
The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has written to pharmacy owners and superintendents to share guidance about employing provisionally-registered pharmacists.  
  
13:54pm, 15 July 2020  
[Pharmacy Quality Scheme – Essential Criteria Checklist](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/pharmacy-quality-scheme-2013-essential-criteria-checklist)  
A new Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) for 2020/21 has been developed. Part 1 recognises the work many pharmacy contractors have already completed as a result of COVID-19 to ensure a safer environment for all staff and people who visit the pharmacy.  
  
13:53pm, 15 July 2020  
[First Contact Physiotherapists (FCPs)](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/first-contact-physiotherapists-fcps)  
Musculoskeletal (MSK) FCP roles, which are now funded under the new PCN DES, have proven particularly important for supporting self-management whilst delivering services virtually under the lockdown.  
  
11:43am, 15 July 2020  
[Ethnic minorities less successful in getting NHS dental appointments](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/ethnic-minorities-less-successful-in-getting-nhs-dental-appointments)  
It has been revealed that young people and ethnic minorities are less successful in getting NHS dental appointments, according to the results of the GP patient survey where 740,000 people gave feedback on NHS dentistry.  
  
11:42am, 15 July 2020  
[Plans to deal with winter pressures and potential COVID-19 second wave vital](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/plans-to-deal-with-winter-pressures-and-potential-covid-19-second-wave-vital)  
Responding to the Academy of Medical Sciences' report Preparing for a challenging winter, Professor Martin Marshall, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: “Winter is always a busy time for general practice, as it is across the NHS, as GPs and our teams deal with many patients suffering from flu and other common winter illnesses in the community.  
  
11:41am, 15 July 2020  
[NHS Digital supports cardiovascular research](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-digital-supports-cardiovascular-research)  
New data from NHS Digital has been used by the University of Oxford for a study looking at the weekly cardiac-related hospital admissions during the COVID-19 pandemic.  
  
11:37am, 15 July 2020  
[Health and Care Visa launched](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/health-and-care-visa-launched)  
The new Health and Care Visa will make it cheaper, quicker and easier for healthcare professionals from around the world to come to the UK.  
  
11:05am, 14 July 2020  
[Concerns over oral cancer pathway](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/concerns-over-oral-cancer-pathway)  
A British Association of Private Dentistry poll of members showed that 676 out of the 755 participants polled reported referral problems from primary to secondary care for patients suspected of having oral cancer.  
  
11:01am, 14 July 2020  
[Pharmacy teams – critical part of NHS](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/pharmacy-teams-2013-critical-part-of-nhs)  
Secretary of State for Health Matt Hancock today told pharmacy teams at a virtual conference that he sees them as “critical part of the NHS family” and hopes to see a bigger role for community pharmacy in primary care and pre-primary care.  
  
10:59am, 14 July 2020  
[BMA COVID-19 Live](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/bma-covid-19-live)  
The BMA has launched COVID-19 Live, a mobile-optimised site that doctors can use to access all the latest BMA COVID guidance and news.  
  
10:56am, 14 July 2020  
[Improving medical pathways for acute care](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/improving-medical-pathways-for-acute-care)  
The Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Royal College of General Practitioners, Royal College of Physicians and the Society for Acute Medicine have made recommendations for the immediate transformation of the urgent and emergency care pathway.  
  
10:38am, 14 July 2020  
[New report on ‘health as the new wealth’](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-report-on-2018health-as-the-new-wealth2019)  
Health should be the new wealth, says a joint report from Yorkshire & Humber Academic Health Science Network (AHSN), the NHS Confederation and Yorkshire Universities.  
  
10:22am, 14 July 2020  
[97.5% of in-person coronavirus tests returned next day](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/97-5-of-in-person-coronavirus-tests-returned-next-day)  
Statistics covering the 5th week of operation (25 June to 1 July) of the NHS Test and Trace service have been published. 91% of in-person tests taken at regional test sites and mobile testing units were returned in less than 24 hours over the week of 25 June to 1 July, with 97.5% returned the day after the test was taken.  
  
11:13am, 13 July 2020  
[Health Education England training hubs](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/health-education-england-training-hubs)  
Training hubs are based in primary and community care, serving the local community.  
  
11:12am, 13 July 2020  
[Regional COVID-19 cases and triage figures](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/regional-covid-19-cases-and-triage-figures)  
NHS Digital has published an interactive dashboard showing the number of COVID-19 cases identified through Pillar 1 and 2 testing and the total number of NHS Pathways triages through 111 and 999, and online assessments in 111 Online which received a potential COVID-19 final disposition.  
  
11:10am, 13 July 2020  
[Primary Care Network clinical pharmacist](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/primary-care-network-clinical-pharmacist)  
Author, blogger and newly-appointed Primary Care Network (PCN) pharmacist Laura Buckley has written her first blog for NHS England. In it she describes her transition from being a community pharmacy manager to working in a PCN multidisciplinary team and what she has learned from working in general practice helping patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.  
  
10:59am, 13 July 2020  
[Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF)](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/community-pharmacy-contractual-framework-cpcf)  
Several CPCF changes that were planned for implementation July will not be rolled out this month and negotiations are ongoing about future implementation dates.  
  
10:53am, 13 July 2020  
[Outpatient services for the 21st century in the context of COVID-19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/outpatient-services-for-the-21st-century-in-the-context-of-covid-19)  
The Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of General Practitioners have set out principles and recommendations for the reset of outpatient services. It is hoped that they will help integrated care systems and/or the organisations that comprise them.  
  
10:52am, 13 July 2020  
[COVID-19 care home support and the enhanced health in care homes service](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-care-home-support-and-the-enhanced-health-in-care-homes-service)  
From 31 July 2020, the interim COVID-19 care home service will transition into the more comprehensive Enhanced Health in Care Homes service as described in the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES).  
  
10:50am, 13 July 2020  
[Updated shielding guidance changes for children](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/updated-shielding-guidance-changes-for-children)  
The Government shielding guidance has been slightly relaxed so that those who are shielding can meet in groups of up to 6 outdoors and to form "support bubbles", if they wish.  
  
10:48am, 13 July 2020  
[NHS England GP patient survey 2020](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-england-gp-patient-survey-2020)  
NHS England published the results for its GP patient survey. More than 95% of patients have confidence and trust in their family doctor and thanks to hard working dental practices, nine out of 10 people were able to get an appointment when they needed one, with the vast majority reporting a positive experience with their NHS dentist. The survey covers the period up until the end of March 2020.