**NHS NETWORKS weekly news stories:**
12:32pm, 20 March 2020
[Richmond’s business continuity plan](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/richmond2019s-business-continuity-plan)
Richmond CCG has made available its draft business continuity plan which outlines how to create containment areas, how to minimise footfall at NHS sites, how to protect staff and how to communicate with patients and partner organisations.

12:31pm, 20 March 2020
[A guide to video consultations](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/a-guide-to-video-consultations)
The British Journal of General Practice has published a guide for practices on how to use video in clinical consultations.

12:28pm, 20 March 2020
[Each baby counts: 2019 progress report](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/each-baby-counts-2019-progress-report)
This report recommends new measures to reduce stillbirths, baby deaths and brain injuries.

12:26pm, 20 March 2020
[£2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/ps2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable)
The government is to commit £2.9bn to allow those who no longer need urgent hospital treatment to return home, making at least 15,000 beds available during the coronavirus outbreak.

12:25pm, 20 March 2020
[Messaging tool for NHS to support remote working during coronavirus outbreak](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/messaging-tool-for-nhs-to-support-remote-working-during-coronavirus-outbreak)
A messaging and conferencing app will be available for free, for a limited period across the NHS, to counter the increased risks from face-to-face meetings associated with Covid-19.

19:49pm, 19 March 2020
[NHS England issues latest Covid-19 guidance for general practice](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-england-issues-latest-covid-19-guidance-for-general-practice)
NHS England has published an update to its guidance for general practice and commissioners.

19:43pm, 19 March 2020
[‘Back to the core business of the NHS’](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/2018back-to-the-core-business-of-the-nhs2019)
Dr Dave Triska, GP and PCN clinical director and the author of the Surrey Heartlands Covid-19 guidance (story above) believes the crisis will bring about a permanent and profound change in the way the NHS works.

19:41pm, 19 March 2020
[New indemnity scheme for historical clinical negligence claims in general practice](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-indemnity-scheme-for-historical-clinical-negligence-claims-in-general-practice)
The existing liabilities scheme for general practice will provide staff with cover for historical NHS clinical negligence claims, ie for NHS work carried out before 1 April 2019.

19:40pm, 19 March 2020
[Covid-19: guidance for primary care updated](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-guidance-for-primary-care-updated)
Advice for primary care professionals dealing with patients with suspected Covid-19.

19:38pm, 19 March 2020
[Testing for coronavirus (Covid-19) will increase to 25,000 a day](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/testing-for-coronavirus-covid-19-will-increase-to-25-000-a-day)
The government will increase the number of people tested for Covid-19 to 25,000 hospital patients a day.

19:36pm, 19 March 2020
[Childhood immunisation statistics CCG/GP practice level coverage dashboard 2018/19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/childhood-immunisation-statistics-ccg-gp-practice-level-coverage-dashboard-2018-19)
This interactive resource reports annual childhood vaccination data for England in 2018/19 and relates to routine vaccinations offered to all children up to the age of five years.

14:35pm, 18 March 2020
[Covid-19 guidance for primary care from Surrey Heartlands](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-guidance-for-primary-care-from-surrey-heartlands)
Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership has issued Covid-19 guidance for local practices.

14:31pm, 18 March 2020
[Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus response plans](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-response-plans)
New laws will be introduced to protect public health, increase NHS capacity, strengthen social care and support the public to take the right action at the right time.

14:29pm, 18 March 2020
[NICE publishes its first medtech briefing on artificial intelligence software](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nice-publishes-its-first-medtech-briefing-on-artificial-intelligence-software)
A piece of AI software used to assess CT images of people with suspected brain abnormalities is the is the subject of a briefing from NICE.

14:27pm, 18 March 2020
[CQC to stop routine inspections to focus on supporting providers to deliver safe care during Covid-19 pandemic](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/cqc-to-stop-routine-inspections-to-focus-on-supporting-providers-to-deliver-safe-care-during-covid-19-pandemic)
The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has announced that it will be stopping routine inspections from this week.

14:25pm, 18 March 2020
[Guidance on social distancing and protecting older people and vulnerable adults](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/guidance-on-social-distancing-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults)
The government has issued guidance on social distancing measures we should all be taking to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19).

14:23pm, 18 March 2020
[Racial disparities in mental health: literature and evidence review](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/racial-disparities-in-mental-health-literature-and-evidence-review)
A report from the Race Equality Foundation draws on the most recent published research from the past five years, together with insights from two events and conversations across the sector.

20:14pm, 17 March 2020
[Introduction to HR for primary care](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/introduction-to-hr-for-primary-care)
This full-day course on 28 April in Manchester, 14 May in London and 24 June in Birmingham is suitable for anyone who is responsible for managing staff or those aspiring to a first line management position within the ever-changing primary care landscape.

20:13pm, 17 March 2020
[Dispelling doubts about practice mergers in the Black Country](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/dispelling-doubts-about-practice-mergers-in-the-black-country)
The push towards delivering primary care at scale involves a pooling of many interests.

20:12pm, 17 March 2020
[2020/21 NHS standard contract underlines the role of primary care networks](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/2020-21-nhs-standard-contract-underlines-the-role-of-primary-care-networks)
The NHS standard contract is mandated by NHS England for use by commissioners for all contracts for healthcare services other than primary care.

20:10pm, 17 March 2020
[NHS standard contract 2020/21: national variations](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-standard-contract-2020-21-national-variations)
NHS England has issued guidance on the process for mandatory national variation to existing contracts which extend beyond 31 March 2020, and the national variation templates.

20:07pm, 17 March 2020
[Chief social workers for adults' annual report: 2019/20](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/chief-social-workers-for-adults-annual-report-2019-20)
The joint chief social workers for adults in England set out the progress made in improving education, training and practice in adult social work and sets out national priorities for the coming year.

20:05pm, 17 March 2020
[New guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infection](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-guidance-for-households-with-possible-covid-19-infection)
New guidance to stay at home for 14 days if someone in a household has symptoms of Covid-19 is the focus of the next stage of a public awareness campaign.

20:03pm, 17 March 2020
[Repairing our social fabric: towards a new understanding of community strength](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/repairing-our-social-fabric-towards-a-new-understanding-of-community-strength)
Think tank Onward has published a report setting out the aims of its Repairing Our Social Fabric programme.

14:01pm, 16 March 2020
[Collaboration: don’t underestimate what it takes](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/collaboration-don2019t-underestimate-what-it-takes)
Collaboration won’t create automatic benefits – or any benefits if it gets off on the wrong foot. Working together, particularly with organisations that don’t necessarily share your agenda, demands thought and a certain amount of preparation.

13:59pm, 16 March 2020
[Effective team working](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/effective-team-working-4)
Teams have changed. Organisations are working in new ways, with teams that no longer sit next to each other, teams that work from home and teams that cross organisational boundaries.

13:58pm, 16 March 2020
[What do children and young people need from primary care networks?](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/what-do-children-and-young-people-need-from-primary-care-networks)
Healthy London Partnership and the Association of Young People’s Health (AYPH) have produced resources for primary care networks as they seek to address the needs of children and young people.

13:56pm, 16 March 2020
[HIV drug to be available across England](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/hiv-drug-to-be-available-across-england)
The HIV drug PrEP will be routinely available across England as part of the government’s aim to end HIV transmission by 2030.

13:47pm, 16 March 2020
[New adult social care guidance to protect the most vulnerable against Covid-19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-adult-social-care-guidance-to-protect-the-most-vulnerable-against-covid-19)
The government has issued new guidance to councils and care providers as it works to delay the spread of Covid-19.

13:45pm, 16 March 2020
[Review of interventions that protect students’ mental health and wellbeing](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/review-of-interventions-that-protect-students2019-mental-health-and-wellbeing)
A review of 23 evidence reviews published over the past 20 years establishes what is known about effective ways to improve student mental health and wellbeing.