

South West Vaccinations & Screening (VaST)

Section 7a Bulletin



Issue 143: 3rd July 2023

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ICARS

Please note the ICARS newsletter is now fortnightly. The following issue will be included in next week's bulletin.

Our generic email address is changing

From 1st July 2023, the NHS England's South West Integrated Public Health and Screening & Immunisations Team has changed its name to the South West Vaccination & Screening Team (abbreviated to SW VaST). Please note that from this time, our old **generic mailboxes england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net and phcontractssouthwest@nhs.net will no longer be used.**

From 1st July, please send emails to:

England.swvast@nhs.net for all Section 7A screening and immunisation programmes

England.swicars@nhs.net for the immunisations clinical advice service (ICARS)

England.swcqrs@nhs.net for CQRS queries

England.swcovid19-voc1@nhs.net for Covid-19 programme operational queries

Please update your contact lists accordingly.

NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme – Lynch Syndrome Colonoscopy Surveillance implementation

From July 2023 people with a confirmed diagnosis of Lynch Syndrome in England will be invited to participate in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) for colonoscopic surveillance. Prior to this, these cohorts will have received their colonoscopies via symptomatic services.

The decision to transfer peoples' surveillance to NHS BCSP was made by NHS England in December 2021 following recommendations from Bowel Cancer UK and the Lynch Syndrome Expert Advisory Group (LSEAG), based on clinical advice from the British Society for Gastroenterologists (BSG). It is expected that the BCSP will provide an efficient, consistent, and quality assured pathway for colonoscopic surveillance for people with Lynch Syndrome.

People with Lynch Syndrome will start to receive invitations from BCSP for their colonoscopy surveillance from the following dates:

- **3 July 2023** - prospective cohort only (i.e patients newly diagnosed with Lynch Syndrome who are referred by the genetics services via an online portal).
- **19 July 2023** - retrospective patients (i.e patients that are already known to have Lynch Syndrome and are currently being managed in symptomatic services).

NHS Genetics Services are responsible for referring patients diagnosed with Lynch Syndrome into the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme for colonoscopic surveillance (as well as continuing to manage their other Lynch Syndrome needs and risk).

GPs do not need to refer patients with Lynch Syndrome into the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme for colonoscopic surveillance but should continue to refer individuals to local genetics services for Lynch Syndrome care and management.

Statement of amendment to the annual flu letter for 2023 to 2024 – 3 July 2023

The [annual flu vaccination programme letter](#) (“annual flu letter”) of 25 May 2023 has been amended to reflect the addition to the programme of secondary school-aged children in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 (including home-schooled and other children not in mainstream education). Please ensure vaccinations commence as early as possible after the flu vaccine becomes available and are completed by 15 December 2023, in line with the other school aged cohorts already announced.

As set out in the annual flu letter, the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) should be offered to eligible children aged from 2 years to less than 18 years of age unless contraindicated or where parents object to LAIV on the grounds of its porcine

gelatine content. Where LAIV is unsuitable, children should be offered the injectable cell-based Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIVc). Children's vaccines will be available to order through [ImmForm](#).

Further Information

Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHS England website [here](#). **Please note that if there are no items for your information a GP Bulletin will not be circulated.** If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Integrated Public Health Team at england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net.