



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

BY EMAIL

All Pharmacy Contractors on the Pharmaceutical List

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Dear Colleagues

COVID-19 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

As you are aware additional restrictions will be introduced for Northern Ireland to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 and to help manage the pressures on the Health and Social Care system.

From 12.01am on 26 December 2020 until 12.01am on 2 January 2021 restrictions will be in place each night from 8.00pm until 6.00am the following morning. These restrictions will be in regulation.

Essential retail must close between the hours of 8.00pm and 6.00am. Further detailed information is available at the following link:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you#toc-2>

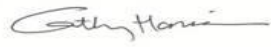
Exemptions are being made in relation to community pharmacy services as this is a key part of our public health response to Covid-19 and includes the following:

- community pharmacies providing health services and in particular **on-call or Christmas rota services** will be able to remain open;
- other community pharmacies can undertake **ancillary back-office work** during the restrictions (but not be open to the public) – this will be important to ensure pharmacy services can continue to operate effectively;
- the network of pharmacies providing on-call **Palliative Care Services** until 10pm each night will continue to operate as normal.

I trust this helps to clarify matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

With best wishes.



Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Copy distribution:
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