

Riots and Disruption: Pharmacy precautions and preparations

The NHS England regional statement reads:

Dear Colleagues,

I am sure you will be aware of the tragic events that occurred in Southport last week and the deplorable riots, violence and intimidation that have taken place in our cities and towns across the Northwest and across the UK. I echo the sentiments expressed by NHS senior leads, the RPS, GPhC and other pharmacy bodies. Diversity is a key strength of our profession and pharmacy teams. Thank you for all the hard work you are doing in providing patient care and services to the public during these challenging times.

We are aware that there have been reports of continued civil unrest during this week and concerns around potential further demonstrations and unrest. We understand that this may raise concerns in relation to the safety of your teams and pharmacies.

We also acknowledge that there may be disruptions to public transportation that may make it difficult for your pharmacy team members to get to and from the pharmacy.

We appreciate that there may be times where you may require to close your pharmacy at short notice during NHS contracted hours or be prevented from opening during this period. The safety of your patients, teams and yourselves is paramount. There are provisions within the NHS Pharmaceutical Regulations to support unplanned closures if necessary.

We would ask that you review your business continuity plans to ensure your teams understand what actions to take in the event of an unplanned closure. In the event that you are required to close or cannot open please also ensure that you communicate this to relevant parties (e.g. GP Practices, other services, vulnerable patients and commissioners).

Community Pharmacy England have published some general advice and support information here: <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/protest-activity-across-england-impact-on-pharmacies/>

In the event of an unplanned closure you are also required to report this to your ICB pharmacy contract team within a practicable timeframe, and the template form can be found here: [PRN00640iii-pharmacy-manual-ch36-annex-18-notification-of-a-temporary-suspension.docx \(live.com\)](#)

We would recommend that you look out for local information from your local police forces in relation to potential protest activities and reports of civil unrest. Your local LPC and ICB pharmacy contract teams may also be able to support with additional information.

Thank you again for all the hard work that you and your teams are doing. Please keep yourselves and each other safe.”