

12 July 2023

## Briefing on upcoming industrial action

Dear colleague,

I am writing to provide you with important information regarding upcoming NHS industrial action that may impact your community. The British Medical Association (BMA) has announced that junior doctors will take part in a five-day, 120-hour industrial action strike from **7am on Thursday 13 July until 7am on Tuesday 18 July**. Senior doctors and hospital consultants will then be striking for a further 48 hours, from **7am on Thursday 20 July until 7am on Saturday 22 July**. After that, radiologists will take two days of strike action from **8am on Tuesday 25 July until the same time on Thursday 27 July**.

These strikes are expected to create significant disruption, so we want to encourage people to choose services wisely during this time. This includes using 111 Online as the first port of call for health needs, and only using 999 if it is a life-threatening emergency.

In summary, we'd be grateful if you could communicate the following key messages to your community:

- Junior doctors are undertaking strike action from **Thursday 13 July until Tuesday 18 July**, followed by strike action by consultants from **Thursday 20 July to Saturday 22 July**. After that, radiologists will then take two days of strike action from **8am on Tuesday 25 July until the same time on Thursday 27 July**
- We expect there to be significant disruption to hospital services during this time.
- The NHS is asking patients to choose services appropriately during industrial action and take simple steps to help ensure care is available to patients who need it most. This includes using 111 Online as the first port of call for health needs, and only using 999 if it is a life-threatening emergency.
- Patients should only visit A&E if they need emergency, life-saving care.
- Some GP practices will continue to be open as usual during the junior doctors' strike, but some will be affected as they are training practices. Please continue to attend your existing GP and dental appointments unless you are contacted and told otherwise. For new issues, please use 111 Online in the first instance.
- Regardless of any strike action taking place, it is really important that patients who need urgent medical care continue to come forward as normal, especially in emergency and life-threatening cases – when someone is seriously ill or injured, or their life is at risk.

We are sharing advice and guidance on our social media channels, including videos in community languages. Follow us [@blmkhealthcare](#) on Twitter or search [BLMKHealthandCare](#) on Facebook.

Parents can also get advice on their children's symptoms at [www.blmkhealthiertogether.nhs.uk](http://www.blmkhealthiertogether.nhs.uk).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or support.

Kind regards

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