



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Issue 49 – 15 October 2020

Dear colleague

Please find a number of updates below - we hope you will find the articles useful and relevant.

Winter Plan and Infection Control Fund Round 2

You will recall that previous bulletins have announced the government's Winter Plan 2020-21 and the accompanying Infection Control Fund round (ICF2).

Central government do not require to see local areas' own completed Winter Plans, but we will be continuing to develop the plan for Leicestershire in conjunction with provider representatives and will publish a summary of the plan on our website later in the autumn.

We have updated the pages of our website related to ICF to reflect the second round of funding. Please refer to these pages for the new requirements on eligibility and expenditure <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/working-with-you-during-coronavirus/infection-control-fund>.

We will continue to keep you updated through these bulletins and the fortnightly provider calls.

PPE Portal for Care Providers

Following the [Department of Health and Social Care's announcement on the future of PPE](#), all CQC providers are encouraged to register to the [PPE portal](#).

Providers are encouraged to order as much of their supply via the portal as possible and the portal is no longer to be used as an emergency source.

It has been acknowledged that, for many providers, the PPE portal will only be able to source around 20% of COVID-19 PPE needs, however assurance has been provided that the third phase of the roll-out will see the limits increased in order to meet 100% of COVID-19 PPE demand.

Vinyl Gloves

We advise providers to continue following the national guidance on the use of vinyl gloves.

Services will need to consider whether staff should be using vinyl gloves or nitrile gloves and requests for these can be made via the PPE Portal which is outlined in the article above.

We are monitoring Government advice for any updates or changes to this guidance and will communicate as quickly as possible if any changes are made. Meanwhile the Commissioning and Quality Team will provide support to services where required via the Provider Communication Line at enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk.

Tablet Devices for Care Homes

NHSX, the government unit developing best practice for NHS technology, are now providing tablet devices to eligible care homes in order to improve internet access, increase accessibility to NHSmail and help residents to remain connected with loved ones. [Find out more here and apply.](#)

Applications are open until 23 October 2020. Please note that the offer is made to care homes that receive all or some of their funding for residential care from the NHS or from a local authority. Further eligibility details are listed here:

<https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/social-care/eligibility-criteria-ipad-offer/>.

Look after yourself and help control the spread of COVID-19

As cases of coronavirus rise across Leicestershire, and parts of our county have seen local lockdown and increased restrictions over the last few months, we need your help.

It is in our own hands locally to keep ourselves and our loved ones, staff and residents safe. In short – it's down to all of us.

Throughout the pandemic home care and residential care staff have been doing a great job looking after our vulnerable service users – now, more than ever, it is important to remember to protect ourselves too and prevent the virus spreading.

A new wide-ranging campaign is calling on staff and residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to stem rising rates of coronavirus during a second wave.

The drive - backed by the county council, the NHS, local authorities, Leicestershire Police, universities and Leicestershire and Rutland Sport – is called 'it's down to us' and encourages people whether they're on the school run, travelling to work, in the office or going out for a drink, to change their behaviour during the pandemic.

To help remind staff of the importance of following the rules, and looking after themselves as well as residents and service users, we have developed a range of poster that we'd be grateful if you could print and display in staff areas:

- ‘Thank you for caring for our residents’ posters
 - [Poster 1](#)
 - [Poster 2](#)
- ‘Thank you for caring for others’ posters
 - [Poster 1](#)
 - [Poster 2](#)

Over the next week we will be developing additional materials that we’ll share with you to help remind staff to follow the rules outside of work too.

National Testing Programme Rollout

As some of you may know, Leicester City Council have been involved in the pilot testing for Supported Living and Extra Care and a national rollout is intended to commence shortly. Currently, the list to be submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care is being drawn up.

Nationally, criteria have been set which may rule out some settings that you need to be aware of - this includes:

- single occupancy households that are not part of a wider scheme (e.g. someone in their own home in a wider community setting)
- services that do not provide personal care.

The national team will be holding specific webinar sessions with the market which we strongly recommend you join - the [link to the national webinar is now available here](#). The sessions will be run over a number of weeks and you will be able to download the pack to support your planning for testing after the webinar.

You can also find links to national guidance below which provide useful information, particularly if the testing leads to positive tests and the subsequent actions that would need to be taken.

National guidance:

- [Admission and care of people in care homes](#)
- [Supported living guidance](#)

At this stage this is a once-only test, which will then be used to determine whether there needs to be a regular / routine programme of testing across the sector.

Reading the materials on the process / approach is critical, along with ensuring that sufficient planning and preparation has been completed. Testing does not need to be completed in one session, if you are a larger organisation with multiple sites you may wish to create a programme of testing instead. Another key consideration for testing is ensuring you get consent (in advance) from people you support and your staff teams - this testing isn’t mandatory, but voluntary.

Thank you as always for your constant hard work.

Yours sincerely

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