



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS



Issue 58 – 3 December 2020

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your exceptional hard work as part of the efforts that are taking place nationwide. Below are a number of updates for you and your teams.

COVID-19 vaccinations

Following yesterday's announcements about the approval of one of the coronavirus vaccines, please find below an update from the programme lead.

Caroline Trevithick, Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Performance for the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups, said:

“We are delighted that the vaccine has been approved. Extensive planning and preparation has already been taking place in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, in readiness for this. Now the vaccine has been approved by the MHRA we have more work to do to finalise our local plans.

We are waiting further details about what the approval means for the local distribution and delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, and will announce details as soon as we are in a position to do so. More information is expected from the Government and we should be able to say more within the next few days.

Members of the public and health and social care staff will be contacted and invited to attend for vaccinations and should not take any action until then. In the meantime, we all need to continue to protect ourselves and others by washing our hands often, wearing a face covering and keeping 2 metres apart.”

Lateral flow testing and visiting in care homes

Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) have now started to be rolled out to care homes in Leicestershire, starting initially with the largest – all homes will be receiving the first supply of these test kits by 18 December.

LFT is an important step in helping to reduce the spread of coronavirus. Please look out for emails from the DHSC about online training and sign up as soon as possible.

LFT should only be carried out at a care home – no tests can be sent home with visitors in preparation for future visits – and visitors must perform their own test.

The introduction of LFT does not change the recently published LLR care home visiting guidance ([Issue 55 – Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Care Home Visiting Policy](#)) – you should continue to conduct care home visits in a safe way regardless of a negative test. As reflected in the LLR guidance, where a home has a COVID-19 outbreak, the home must not receive non-essential visitors regardless of LFT arrangements that may be in place.

We expect that a statement from Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council and EMCARE in response to the government announcement on visitors to care homes will be released later today or tomorrow.

It's down to us to help stop the spread of coronavirus

Coronavirus cases remain high across Leicestershire, including in care homes and care staff.

Good infection prevention continues to be the most important way of stopping the spread of coronavirus – to help remind staff of the importance of these simple steps we've put together a [top tips poster](#). Please share this poster with staff and display it in staff areas as a reminder of how we can all help to keep each other safe.

Thank you for your continued support looking after our vulnerable service users – now, more than ever, it is important to remember the basics of infection prevention and help stop the virus spreading.

Working Time Regulations

In [bulletin 54](#) and on recent provider conference calls we have explored with you how you might consider the flexibility of your workforce in your business continuity planning. In doing so please ensure that you are aware of any implications under the Working Time Regulations 1998 and seek relevant advice.

Infection Control Fund

We are expecting to receive the second Infection Control Fund (ICF) payment from the Department of Health and Social Care during December – based on this we will make a second payment to care homes and community providers in January. To help with the administration of this, for those homes and providers that reported an underspend in ICF Round 1, we will deduct that underspend from the forthcoming payment. There are still some homes and providers that have not submitted their final report for Round 1 - we are in contact with those organisations and they will receive a second payment once their report has been submitted. When these second payments have been made, we will have distributed the 80% mandatory element of the fund - £4.9m.

Over the last few weeks, we have been looking into how we distribute the discretionary 20% element of the fund - £1.2m - we are currently talking to EMCARE and the Leicestershire Homecare Association about this too. Much of it will be used to support providers of services that have not benefited from other ICF payments such as Community Life Choices (day services) organisations. It will also be used to fund costs associated with infection control and workforce resilience that do not readily fall into the defined measures of the mandatory element of the fund - therefore care homes and community providers will benefit from it too. We'll update you more on this in a future bulletin.

In the coming days Leicestershire care homes and community providers will be asked to submit their second monthly return. This will detail cumulative expenditure incurred for October and November together with a revised estimate of total expenditure to March 2021. Please watch out for a detailed email on that containing guidance and a link to the online report.

Regional Infection Prevention Control (IPC) webinar for home care providers

Following a successful event for care homes, an East Midlands infection prevention and control webinar for home-based care has been arranged for Friday 11 December, 14.00-15.30.

The event will cover up-to-date epidemiological information presented by Giri Rajaratnam from Public Health England, and IPC from Kirsty Morgan from NHS England.

The aim of the webinar is to answer home care providers' queries or concerns. Interested providers will need to register in advance by contacting jane.halls@nottsc.gov.uk

If there are any specific issues you'd like to cover please email Sue Wilson, East Midlands Regional Improvement Programme Manager: sue.wilson2@nottsc.gov.uk.

As always, thank you.

Yours sincerely

Jon Wilson

Director of Adults and Communities

Mike Sandys

Director of Public Health

The archive of all previous COVID-19 provider bulletins released since March 2020 can be found at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/working-with-you-during-coronavirus>