



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Issue 26

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

This issue of our bulletin features updates on the Infection Prevention Control Fund, testing, including mental health capacity considerations and a range of other updates, which I hope you'll find useful.

Infection Prevention Control - training reminder – care homes

An infection prevention and control training package to support care homes nationally has been developed by the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. This training covers all areas of IPC but focusses on the importance of hand hygiene and the donning and doffing of PPE.

Locally, staff across the three LLR CCG's and colleagues in the 3 LLR local authorities have now been trained up and have contacted all care homes across LLR to agree a date and time for them to deliver this IPC training. If you are interested in accessing this training for your staff, please contact Zoe Green

Zoe.green@westleicestershireccg.nhs.uk

Infection Prevention Control Fund – tracker - care homes

The first tranche of Leicestershire's £6.7m Infection Control funding was issued to care homes on 10 June. A sum equivalent to £481 for each registered bed in the home was paid to all qualifying care homes. A second and final sum, also of £481 per bed, will be issued in July.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have set strict eligibility criteria for spend and reporting requirements for this funding; Grant Agreements for each home reflecting the conditions are to be signed and returned by 24 June. One of the main conditions of the grant is the **full and consistent completion of the online national Care Home Tracker**. Care homes that do not do this will not receive the second payment and will have to return the first payment to the Council. So, it is imperative that the **Care Home Tracker is completed:**

- fully, that is all sections of the form, and

- consistently, by which we mean once every week day.

If your care home is one of the small number of homes that has not received the first payment, please complete the tracker and then contact our Provider Communication Line so that payment can be arranged.

Our Provider Communication Line can be contacted on 0116 305 7263 or enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk (available 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to noon on Saturday and Sunday).

More information about the [Infection Control Fund](#) is available online.

Infection prevention control and continued use of PPE - care homes

The UK is now in a period of 'sustained' transmission of COVID-19. This is when infection is widespread and where for many people with COVID-19 infection, we are unable to work out the source of infection. This means that PPE must be worn in care homes regardless of whether or not there are known cases of COVID-19 in the home. This includes the use of face masks.

PPE is only effective if it is combined with good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene and effective infection prevention and control practice. The guidance on use of personal protective equipment is evolving extremely quickly and it is best to check the national guidance.

Available online is a summary of [national PPE recommendations](#) for care homes.

COVID-19 testing for staff and residents – care homes

If a care home suspects one or more residents has coronavirus symptoms, care home providers should follow the steps below.

The care home manager should contact their local Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team (HPT) on Tel: 0344 2254524 Option 1. The PHE HPT will then arrange for the testing of all symptomatic residents at this point, via local arrangements as well as providing infection control advice.

After the initial testing has been arranged by PHE, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) will provide further testing for care home residents and staff through the National Whole Care Home Testing Programme (online portal registration process). This service is available for all care homes that look after adults only.

Therefore, if you have a confirmed case or outbreak, and would like to arrange testing of all other residents and staff within your care home, further information is available online [apply for coronavirus tests for a care home](#).

Care homes without symptomatic residents can go directly to the national whole care home testing service. Further information on [adult social care testing](#) is available online

Points to consider around testing and mental capacity

When considering the testing of residents of care homes, it is vital to consider the following aspects in relation to mental capacity:

Practical steps and information

Consider what is relevant to talk to the adult about – What the test is for, how it will be undertaken via a swab and what the potential consequences of testing are i.e. self-isolating if the test is positive.

Best interests

If the adult cannot consent, unless there is a health and welfare attorney or deputy who can consent on their behalf, then the relevant professionals will have to decide whether they believe that to test the person is in their best interests.

They should take in to account the adult's prior views and wishes, the impact not being tested might have on the provision of care and support i.e. knowing they will have to self-isolate when they go in to a care home or that their care package could change temporarily if they do not have the test and the effect not being tested might have on those around them (e.g. the adults wish to ensure that it was known whether or not they had COVID-19 so as to enable others i.e. spouse to be protected).

Refusal of the testing process

In most cases it will be possible to carry out the test in such a way that any restraint of the person will not be required. However, If the adult lacks capacity to consent and refuses the testing process, but it is in their best interests to have the test, then consideration should be given to whether restraint will be necessary.

Professionals will need to ensure that the need to test and use restraint to do so should be in line with least restrictive practice and only be done if it is necessary to prevent harm to the person and not solely to prevent harm from others they may reside with (unless they reasonably believe the adult would be distressed by the idea of causing harm to other people as mentioned above).

If the process of carrying out a test is likely to cause serious distress or harm to the adult or cannot be done for health reasons, then professionals should seek legal advice regarding application to the Court of Protection for guidance on how to proceed.

For health colleagues and provider colleagues

In most cases it is likely that it will be in a person's best interests to have the test. However, there should be no blanket testing decisions made for large groups of

residents i.e. in care homes or supported living, each should be a case by case decision.

Testing for COVID-19 would not generally be classified as serious medical treatment.

Self-isolating residents in care homes or supported living who lack capacity would not solely be considered a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) case unless the 'acid test' is also met in which case a DoLS authorisation needs to be requested. DoLS cannot be used to enforce isolation, purely to prevent harm to others.

If there are concerns relating to a person with capacity to consent who is refusing a test, advice should be sought from the Local Authority or NHS. Please contact the allocated worker for the individual or the County and Rutland DoLS team on 0116 3057853.

The Department of Health and Social Care have produced a useful [Coronavirus test tutorial video](#), which we recommend you watch.

Providing support for residents living with dementia who need to be isolated in care homes during the COVID-19 crisis

An information sheet has been developed by the [Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester](#) to help support care homes with residents living with dementia and needing to be isolated, during this difficult time.

Leeds City Council have also produced some guidance for care homes [Supporting People with Dementia who Walk with Purpose during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

Whilst the research and guidance are based on different areas of the country and some pathways may differ, the care and support we provide for residents is at the heart of everything we do and insights from other areas are invaluable as we continue to support people, through this difficult time.

Information for people receiving home care - alternative formats

Please be aware that should providers wish to leave an information sheet featuring key information, guidance and contacts for service users and their families, this can be downloaded and printed from our [guidance for care providers](#) section of the website, named information for people receiving home care.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): informing DHSC of the death of a worker in social care

Care providers (CQC registered or not), local authorities and charities are being asked to tell the Department of Health and Social Care about the deaths of all types of workers (and volunteers) in the adult social care sector, regardless of role or

employer. The reporting is in addition to any other reporting undertaken such as RIDDOR reporting.

Further information and guidance is available online [informing the DHSC of the death of a worker in social care](#).

Local Resilience Forum – home care representation

The LLR Local Resilience Forum's PPE and Health and Social Care cells are seeking representation from home care providers to represent the Leicestershire and Rutland areas. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the high-level coordination of the ongoing response to COVID-19 and the planning of the recovery. If your organisation would like to be represented, please email the Provider Communication Line on 0116 305 7263 or enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk by 30 June 2020, stating which of the two cells (groups) you would wish to attend, or both. Any selection will be dependent on the number of providers nominated and will be determined in early July.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jon Wilson
Director of Adults & Communities