



# Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS  
**PROTECT  
YOURSELF  
& OTHERS**



## Issue 30

Dear Colleague,

As you will be aware, Leicester is firmly under the spotlight as the first area to undertake a local lockdown. Please be assured we're continuing to work closely with central government, Leicester City Council and all our LLR partners, as we have been throughout the pandemic.

We know that the situation brings with it concerns and questions and we are working hard on producing FAQs for the various ways that this will affect our services and residents. Our website remains the best place to get up to date information (<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/>) and we will continue to keep you updated through our regular bulletins and provider calls.

Please find below a number of updates which I hope you'll find useful and as always, thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

### **The ASC Risk Reduction Framework**

The Department of Health and Social Care have just published [COVID-19: Adult Social Care Risk Reduction Framework: Assessing and reducing the risk to your workforce](#)

The ASC Risk Reduction Framework has been developed in response to requests from employers and concerns that workers who are potentially more vulnerable to infection or adverse outcomes from COVID-19, may not be adequately supported.

The ASC Risk Reduction Framework focuses specifically on how employers can support workers with factors which may make them more vulnerable to infection or adverse outcomes from COVID-19 to make decisions about their risks in the workplace.

### **COVID-19: verifying death in times of emergency**

Skills for Care are working together with NHS England and NHS Improvement to develop resources for the social care sector in line with the recently published government guidance [COVID-19: verifying death in times of emergency](#).

As the government guidance makes special arrangements for verifying an expected death (VOED) with clinical remote support in a community setting, such as care homes, supported living accommodation or when a person receives care in their own home, Skills for Care have initially developed the attached supportive guide and an infographic to support social care providers.

### **Admission and care of residents in a care home during COVID-19**

The [Admission and Care of Residents in a Care Home during COVID-19](#) was updated on 19 June and replaces guidance published on 2 April 2020, in line with the support package for care homes and latest updated advice on testing and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

### **Covid-19 testing reminder**

Please be aware of the following testing options for people showing symptoms of coronavirus:

- Keyworkers or household members of key workers with symptoms: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>
- Care homes can access whole care testing: <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/working-with-you-during-coronavirus/whole-care-home-testing>
- Members of the public that are not keyworkers or who do not live with a key worker : <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>
- Alternatively, Leicester City have various local testing sites available in response to the incident for anyone who has symptoms or who has been in close contact with someone who has symptoms. Further info on these sites is available here: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/coronavirus/>

### **A guide for care home staff on interpretation of COVID-19 swab test results**

Please find online a guide for care home staff on to support with the [interpretation of COVID-19 swab test results](#).

### **Antibody testing**

Due to the limited number of tests available each day, NHS staff are being prioritised at present. Members of the LLR Testing Cell are currently working out the logistics of how the tests can be undertaken on the wider workforce as the antibody test is a blood test and so requires trained professionals and a clinically appropriate room/setting to be available that meets all IPC and social distancing measures.

Public Health have put forward an LLR prioritised workforce list for when rollout happens, and the top 3 priority groups are as follows:

1. Care home staff
2. Wider social care staff e.g. domiciliary care, adult social care, children's social care
3. Emergency response services e.g. police

A positive antibody test will tell you whether you've previously had the virus that causes COVID-19 and that your body has produced an immune response. There is no strong evidence yet to suggest that those who have had the virus develop long-lasting immunity which would prevent them from getting the virus again. As such, a positive antibody result does not mean that an individual can ignore social distancing and IPC measures.

### **Making decisions as COVID-19 guidance changes**

Please find a link to a [webinar](#) relating to the changed COVID-19 guidance and the impact of the legislative changes on the provision of care and support and mental capacity. The key points covered in the webinar are summarised below.

As before:

- The Human Rights Act
- The Equality Act
- The Mental Capacity Act
- The Mental Health Act, with caveats:
  - DHSC has identified (in England) 'cogent reasons' for departure from Code
  - Tribunal procedure
- Advocacy duties –Independent Mental Capacity Advocate, Independent Mental Health Advocate, Care Act, Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales)

Brand new:

- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations
  - England-and Wales-specific Regulations
- The Coronavirus Act
  - Schedule 21: Public Health Officer powers

Changes:

- NHS Continuing Healthcare assessment duties
- The Care Act 'easements' where they apply

- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 'easements where they apply

#### General Principles

- People with capacity to make relevant decision can decide whether to comply (and take consequences if they do not)
- Otherwise –best interest decision applying usual principles, including consideration of wider interests
- Distinguish between law (inc regulations) and guidance

If you have any questions regarding the guidance and the information contained within the webinar and point above, please contact the Leicestershire County Council DOLS Team on 0116 3057853.

#### **Pause of new proposals for home care service**

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a review of county council plans to launch a new home care service in November this year. Proposals to delay the procurement and commissioning of Home Care for Leicestershire were approved by Cabinet members last week.

Procurement of the new service will now start from Spring 2021 onwards with the commissioning of contracts then being carried out ahead of a launch in November 2021.

You should have received a letter about this and following the cabinet meeting - a further letter will be issued to confirm the outcome of the Cabinet meeting and to give you an indication of the council's revised market engagement and procurement timelines.

#### **Contacting Leicestershire County Council's Adult Social Care Customer Service Centre**

There have been some changes made to the way that the providers and other services can contact the Adult Social Care Customer Service Centre (ASC, CSC) at Leicestershire County Council.

The ASC, CSC has made changes to the professional referral form to improve data collection. The new form can be accessed via the [Professional Resources site](#).

Any emails sent to [AdultsandcommunitiesCSC@leics.gov.uk](mailto:AdultsandcommunitiesCSC@leics.gov.uk) will continue to be monitored for the time being. However, providers are advised to use this online form

to correspond with the ASC, CSC. Please note that ASC, CSC phone lines remain unchanged.

For further information please contact [Firmstep@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Firmstep@leics.gov.uk)

### **Digital social care information survey**

The [Professional Record Standards Body](#) (PRSB) would like you to take part in a [survey](#) about information that should be shared between health and social care to improve and join up care for adults.

They want to hear from people who use health and care services, carers, health and care professionals, and system suppliers. If you have service users that need help to complete the survey, please ask their carers to view it on their phone, tablet or computer.

There is an [easy read survey](#) for the About Me section for people who may find the survey hard to read and prefer more images and less text. There is also an [About Me easy read factsheet](#), which may be helpful when completing the survey.

The survey will help NHS and social care services to develop standardised health and care records for adults that can be viewed on digital devices like laptops and tablets in health and care settings.

The survey closes at 5pm, 17 July and should take around 15 minutes to complete. If you have any questions regarding the survey or this project please contact Alannah McGovern at [info@theprsb.org](mailto:info@theprsb.org).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jon Wilson  
Director of Adults & Communities