



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Issue 31

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your unwavering support in this period of prolonged uncertainty.

In addition to providing you with updates on a few items, I would particularly like to take the opportunity to respond to this morning's inaccurate media coverage relating to care homes, and to reinforce the facts.

Safety in care homes

We know that care homes across Leicestershire have done everything asked of them to keep people safe and worked tirelessly to ensure that people's care needs have continued to be met throughout the COVID-19 period.

Unfortunately, residents of care homes are more susceptible to contracting the virus and are more likely to have worse outcomes from the COVID-19 virus due to their age, any underlying health conditions and general level of frailty.

Despite national and international evidence of the impact on COVID-19 on care homes, there was little focus from central government on support to the sector in the early days of the pandemic.

In March and April large numbers of people were discharged from hospital into care homes. Some outbreaks in care homes are likely to be linked to patients discharged from hospital, and others will have been as a result of community infection, often through asymptomatic care staff, which has been shown through national and international research to be significant.

Since March 2020 around 35% of care homes in Leicestershire have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak, or potential outbreak. However, due to the vigilance of care home managers and staff in infection prevention and control, only 4% of care homes have an active outbreak, and in the last couple of weeks there have been no new outbreaks reported in Leicestershire.

In the early weeks of the pandemic, care homes struggled to obtain sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); the government response to the PPE shortage in the care sector was poor, and government guidance to the sector changed frequently. Leicestershire County Council has issued frequent and

comprehensive infection prevention and control guidance, which has been observed by care homes.

This has been uncharted territory for all of us. We know that staff in care homes have worked tirelessly in often very difficult circumstances and at personal risk to themselves to care for their residents. We will continue to support you in every way we can, and I appreciate the efforts of everybody in this sector who shares the vision of supporting our residents.

PPE portal: how to order emergency personal protective equipment

Following guidance updated by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 29 June, healthcare providers can now order additional personal protective equipment (PPE) through the portal to top up their existing supplies for COVID-19 in an emergency.

The [PPE portal](#) can be used by social care and primary care providers to order and receive critical coronavirus (COVID-19) personal protective equipment (PPE).

Providers who can use the service should have received an email invitation to register.

The DHSC has partnered with eBay, Clipper Logistics and Royal Mail to develop this service.

Orders will be managed in line with Public Health England (PHE) guidance and wider availability from the NHS Supply Chain's central PPE logistic operations.

Recall of Cardinal Type IRR face masks

You will note that we have previously written to you advising of a small number of complaints received nationally by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) regarding Cardinal Health type IIR masks (NPC: BWM028, MPC: AT74535).

Following further complaints about this product, we advise you to remove all supplies of Cardinal Type IIR face masks from use with immediate effect. This includes all lot numbers.

Please note, these masks do not present a COVID-19 infection risk: they meet the appropriate breathability, filtration and splash resistance requirements recommended by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). However, following complaints from health and care staff about this mask type, additional testing has been carried out which has indicated that there is a risk to individuals wearing the mask if the foam strip on the mask disintegrates and enters their airway or mouth.



If you have a shortage of Type IIR masks, please contact the [Provider Communication Line](#) who will arrange an emergency delivery if required.

Care for others, make a difference

Since the launch of the national 'Care for Others, Make a Difference' campaign on 23 April there has been a significant increase in people searching for social care jobs.

900,000 new people have visited the campaign website in this period and almost a third of them are searching for social care jobs in their local area.

Are your vacancies visible to apply for?

If you are trying to recruit, make sure that you post and refresh your vacancies on the [DWP Find a Job website](#). This is the best way to attract those who have seen the advertising and are interested in roles local to them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jon Wilson
Director of Adults & Communities