



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Issue 38

Dear Colleague,

Please find several updates which I hope you'll find useful.

You will be aware of increased attention on Melton Mowbray, as the latest data shows that although the number of COVID-19 cases is still relatively small, the infection rate means it is in the top 10 areas in the country.

We'll continue to keep you updated on this and any other changes via our weekly teleconference calls and provider bulletins.

Changes to care home visitor policies in Oadby & Wigston

Following Friday's announcement confirming that the Oadby and Wigston area is no longer in lockdown, care homes are now able to review their visitor policy in line with the statement from the Director of Public Health, released with [issue 37](#) of the provider bulletin. Oadby and Wigston is now in line with the rest of Leicestershire in terms of easing of restrictions, which also applies to visiting arrangements.

Please be aware of what is happening in your local area and review your visitor policy and risk assessment if there is an increase in cases in your area.

Changes to the self-isolation period

Please be aware that following new evidence, the self-isolation period has now changed from 7 days to 10 days.

If anyone has symptoms of COVID-19 however mild, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started. The person should arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19 – go to [testing](#) to arrange. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

If someone is not experiencing symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19 they also must self-isolate for at least 10 days, starting from the day the test was taken. If symptoms develop during this isolation period, the 10-day isolation must restart from the day the symptoms develop.

After 10 days, if there is still a temperature the self-isolation should continue and the person should seek medical advice. People do not need to self-isolate after 10 days

if they only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

The updated [stay at home guidance](#) can be viewed online.

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) update on care home testing

The DHSC have had a positive response to the roll-out of regular whole home testing with most care homes having now registered. However, as a result of several factors including unexpected delays, they have not been able to reach all care homes for older people and people with dementia as quickly as they had hoped.

While they are taking all possible steps to increase their supply this does mean that they have to revise the previously advised timelines for rolling out regular testing in care homes, but will deliver kits sooner if they are able to do so:

- They will now reach all care homes for older people and people with dementia by the 7 September 2020
- If you have already started regular testing, there may be a wait for your second month's order to be fulfilled until they have reached all care homes for older people and people with dementia
- All other adult care homes will be able to start to place orders for test kits from the 31 August 2020
- In the period up to 7 September, they will also take the following steps to target testing capacity where it is most needed:
- They will prioritise providing test kits to care homes in areas on the Contain Framework Local Authority Watchlist as set out in the [Weekly PHE Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Surveillance Report](#)
- All care homes that have symptomatic residents will continue to be able to access testing through their local PHE Health Protection Team
- They will continue to look for options that can reduce delays, such as encouraging testing throughout the whole week, especially on weekends where this is possible. This will enable them to increase the amount of testing they can do and make full use of the available lab capacity

The DHSC want to reassure you that care home testing has not stopped. They are issuing over 50,000 tests a day to care homes across the country, with the majority of these in high priority outbreak areas. Any symptomatic person is still able to get a test and care homes with suspected positive cases will be able to access whole home testing via their local [Health Protection Team](#).

ReSPECT Awareness (Care home and domiciliary social care staff)

On Wednesday 1st January 2020 the Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment (ReSPECT) form was launched across LLR and will eventually replace the need for a Do Not Attempt Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) form.

LOROS will be running a new ReSPECT webinar, across a number of dates, starting from 12 August.

Fully funded by Health Education England East Midlands, this webinar is for care home and domiciliary social care staff across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland aims to raise awareness of ReSPECT and the implications for practice.

This session lasts for 40-60 minutes and will be delivered using ECHO (Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes) technology. ECHO is a recognised and secure teleconferencing method of delivery using ECHO Zoom software and will require delegates to simply click onto a link that will be sent to them via email to attend the session.

The only requirement is that delegates have a device with a camera and microphone such as a computer, laptop, iPad or iPhone.

Find out more and register online at [Eventbrite – ReSPECT tickets](#).

Exemption cards or badges

Everybody who can should wear an appropriate face covering, as advised by the government. However, there are those who cannot. An LLR task and finish group has been set up to look at how we support people who cannot wear a face mask because of a disability to feel confident in accessing community services such as shops and public transport and to reduce the chances of facing discrimination.

To support people who are disabled to understand the benefits of wearing face coverings [Mencap have produced an easy read guide](#).

Some of our residents are not able to wear a face covering and may feel more comfortable being able to show something that highlights this, should they be challenged. This could be in the form of an exemption card, badge or even a home-made sign. This is a personal choice and is not necessary in law. The LLR COVID-19 response is advocating for people to use [the exemption card and PDF attachments that have been developed by the national government](#).

If people who are disabled and cannot wear a face covering experience anti-social or discriminatory behaviour and want to [report it to the police they can do so through the Stamp It Out project](#).

Fraud prevention review of the Continence Service

A national review of the Continence Service by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority has identified system weaknesses in the ordering and supply of continence products provided by a supplier to nursing and residential homes. This enabled nursing and residential care homes to order continence products for deceased patients resulting in a financial loss to the NHS of over £27,000.

Care homes are encouraged to keep up-to-date lists of residents residing in their homes and place orders for continence products against each individual patient on the on-line ordering system.

More information about can be viewed at [FPN Continence Services](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jon Wilson
Director of Adults & Communities