



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Bulletin 70 – 22 January 2021

Dear colleague,

We write with several updates on a number of key matters for you to consider and share as appropriate with your teams. We hope you find this information helpful.

COVID-19 vaccination programme

By Sunday 24 January, it is expected that all residents and staff in all older adults' care homes in Leicestershire will have been offered a COVID-19 vaccination, and have had it administered where they consent. The exception to this is where a risk assessment has determined that it is not safe for the vaccination team to carry them out in a specific care home, such as in the event of a significant outbreak.

Bulletin 69 describes how care home workers who have not yet accessed their vaccination for any reason can still receive their jab. This is an ongoing entitlement and will not cease for the foreseeable future. To maximise safety within a care home it is critical that as many staff as possible are vaccinated against COVID-19 and we appreciate your efforts in answering your colleagues' queries about the vaccine, and showing leadership in this area. Materials which you may find useful are available in bulletin 69, and a leaflet for social care staff can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-a-guide-for-social-care-staff>, in a range of languages.

The LLR vaccination programme is now moving on to wider groups of social care staff (cohort 2), as described in the Standard Operating Procedure at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/vaccinating-frontline-social-care-workers/>. Invitations are being sent to providers based on prioritisation of service type, with a target of reaching all face-to-face social care workers by the national deadline of 15 February. At present, the appointments available are through the hospital hubs – unfortunately we are not yet able to offer vaccinations at other locations, but Primary Care Networks are also rolling out their plans in parallel, and we will be exploring ways to make appointments available in locations which are as convenient as possible.

Leicester City Council is offering a webinar about the vaccine, which is open to the public, and which your staff may find valuable. The details are:

- Thursday 28 January 2021 from 19.00-20.00
- Chaired by Tariq Kapasi, Medical Director for Willow Health, who will be speaking with Dr Ivan Browne, Director of Public Health for Leicester City to discuss questions that the public have on the COVID-19 vaccine
- Register at <https://www.willowshealthcare.org/webinar-registration>

COVID-19 vaccination video for people with a Learning Disability and/or Autism

A short film has been developed relating to COVID-19 vaccination for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people.

It describes what a vaccine is, how vaccines are made, why you should get a vaccine, whether a vaccine can make you ill and how to decide whether to have a vaccine or not: <https://youtu.be/M3Wh23PDnfE>

COVID-19 positive discharge process

The current guidance relating to testing for COVID-19 advises that all patients must receive a COVID-19 PCR test results within 48 hours prior to discharge. Anyone who tests positive should then complete a period of self-isolation and should not be tested again for a further 90 days. Those patients that have tested positive in hospital, have completed their isolation period and then require discharge to a care home will not need to be retested again on discharge if this falls within 90 days of the last positive test.

The national guidance for care homes currently advises that to minimise the risks 'all residents being discharged from hospital or interim care facilities to the care home, and new residents admitted from the community, should be isolated for 14 days within their own room'. All patients that have tested negative for COVID-19 in hospital must have a 'time-stamped reported COVID-19 test result' which must be communicated to the care home prior to the person being discharged from hospital.

The guidance makes no reference of the requirement for a patient to have a negative COVID-19 test result prior to discharge from hospital and admission into the care home.

Further information about hospital discharges is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-settings-for-people-discharged-to-a-care-home/discharge-into-care-homes-for-people-who-have-tested-positive-for-covid-19>

COVID-positive ‘designated settings’

You will be aware from guidance released in October 2020 and recently confirmed in guidance last week (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-settings-for-people-discharged-to-a-care-home/discharge-into-care-homes-for-people-who-have-tested-positive-for-covid-19>) that anyone with a COVID-19 positive test result being discharged into or back into a registered care home setting must be discharged into an appropriate ‘designated setting’ and cared for there for the remainder of their required isolation period.

We urgently need extra capacity for ‘designated settings’ for COVID-positive discharges from hospital. UHL, and hospitals in neighbouring areas, are seeing significant increases in COVID-positive admissions and corresponding increases in those who are medically fit for discharge, but are unable to return home and need to complete their isolation period in a designated care home setting.

Further information on the requirements can be viewed in provider bulletin 51 at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2020/10/30/Issue-51-coronavirus-adult-social-care-provider-bulletin.pdf>

If you believe that you can put your home forward for consideration as a designated setting, please ring Gill Newton for a confidential discussion on 0116 305 9216 or email gill.newton@leics.gov.uk.

Summary of testing in social care settings

The following link takes you to a useful visual summary of testing options that are available for social care settings:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949665/Care_Home_Testing_Guidance_visual_v291220-1.pdf

Lateral (Rapid) Flow Tests

1 in 3 individuals with COVID-19 do not show symptoms and are unaware that they might be spreading the infection – Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) can help identify these individuals. Once identified, we can trace contacts, and help prevent the virus spreading to others.

In response to Leicestershire care home staff queries about LFT, Public Health has produced a [factsheet](#) as a useful guide to some of the most common questions about lateral flow tests for your information and to pass to your teams.

Rapid Testing Fund

The Government's Rapid Testing Fund has been set up to support Lateral Flow Testing of staff in care homes. The fund also supports visiting professionals to enable indoor, close contact visiting where appropriate.

Leicestershire will receive £1.66m of the £149m national Rapid Testing Fund. Around 80% must be issued directly to care homes on a 'per bed' basis – this is known as the 'mandatory' part of the fund, and is equivalent to approximately £250 per bed.

The local authority has discretion to use the remaining 20% of funding (the 'discretionary' part of the fund) to support the care sector to operationally deliver LFT testing.

All funding must be spent by the end of the fund period on 31 March 2021 and any funding that remains unspent at this point will need to be returned to the council.

The measures eligible for funding from the 80% mandatory part of the grant are:

- Paying for staff costs associated with training and carrying out LFT testing
- Costs associated with recruiting staff to facilitate increased testing
- Costs associated with the creation of a separate testing area where staff and visitors can be tested and wait for their result
- Costs associated with disposal of LFT tests and testing equipment

Monthly reporting is a grant condition and will be integrated with the reporting on ICF2 to make it as straightforward as possible for providers.

Full details of the Rapid Testing Fund, including the grant conditions, can be found on the [DHSC website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Pruden at dave.pruden.leics.gov.uk

PCR testing for home care workers

Regular testing for home care staff is important because it:

- identifies home care workers who currently have COVID-19 so they are able to self-isolate if positive
- protects those receiving care from infection passed to them by home care workers who are confirmed positive
- prevents and controls the spread of the virus by identifying asymptomatic cases

Home care agencies are responsible for ordering and distributing test kits to all home care workers for them to conduct at home on a weekly basis. Guidance on PCR testing for home care can be found

here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-homecare-workers/a-testing-service-for-homecare-workers-in-england>

Infection control fund (ICF)

Care homes should receive their second ICF2 payment on Monday 25 January. With this payment, the allocated sum for care homes of almost £3.5m will have been distributed. The sum paid on Monday equates to £400 per bed, which in addition to the initial payment of £339 per bed means that £739 per bed has been paid. Some homes did not submit a report, or reported an underspend in ICF1 and those monies have been deducted from this payment.

Community providers should receive their second ICF payment on Wednesday 27 January. The sum paid equates to £240 per client. Again, some providers did not report or reported an underspend in ICF1 and those monies have been deducted from this payment. With this sum almost £1.2m has been distributed, which is less than the allocated sum of £1.47m. The reason for this reduced level of grant is that whilst an initial payment totalling over £700k was made in October, total expenditure for October to December was less than £400k, and the DHSC expectation is that the whole sum should be spent. The expected total spend reported for October to March is less than £1.0m. The grant conditions require unspent monies to be returned, so rather than making payment now to be returned in April, the council is temporarily reserving the balance - where providers subsequently submit their report, we will be pleased to release the balance to them.

The December reports show there are care homes and community providers that are reporting expenditure in excess of the grant that they have received. The council is exploring ways to redistribute unspent monies to those providers to mitigate their costs and ensure that as much grant money as possible is spent in Leicestershire.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Pruden at dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk

Free 'CARE' badges

The Department of Health and Social Care are providing CARE badges free of charge to all those employed across the sector to recognise their critical work during the pandemic.

Providers can order them here: <https://badges.adultsocialcare.uk/>

Demonstration of hand hygiene and donning / doffing of PPE

Informative practical demonstrations of hand hygiene and donning / doffing of PPE for a Non Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) are being held by Microsoft Teams on the following dates:

- Wednesday 27 January 2021 at 10.00-12.00
- Subsequent Wednesdays at the same time

There are unlimited spaces.

Dial in details are:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+44 20 3321 5208,656925775#](tel:+442033215208656925775) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 656 925 775#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Please ensure you have access to a computer/laptop or device. There will be an opportunity to ask questions related to the content.

Recommended in addition to this informative practical demonstration is an IPC training package and resources for care homes. It has been produced by the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital and delivered through the Health Education England HEE website, and can be found here <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/649276>

Training opportunities

The following events have been arranged in response to training requests from providers operating in the East Midlands. They are being offered jointly by the Care Provider Alliance, NHS England (NHSE) and the Association of Directors for Adult Social Services (ADASS). They will be run on Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

To book onto these events please register your interest by emailing EM-ADASSAdmin@nottscg.gov.uk stating which course you are interested in. Please include an email address they can contact you on.

Wednesday 27 January 14.00-15.30: Supporting people with COVID at end of life in their own homes

A practical session for front line home care and extra care staff who are likely to be supporting people with COVID who chose to remain at home. This session will be a practical teaching session designed to support care givers to identify and manage a patient who is home and at end of life in the context of COVID.

There will be three broad parts to the session:

- Part 1: Recognition of indicators that a patient is entering the final phase of life
- Part 2: System Management / Practical support from a pharmacological and non-pharmacological perspective
- Part 3: Q&A session

Tuesday 2 February 10-11.30: Learning Disabilities (LD) Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) and vaccination webinar for care and support providers

This is a session that looks specifically at the IPC and vaccination issues when supporting people with learning disabilities. It is open to all providers of LD services. Please submit any specific issues and scenarios you would like to cover when you book on to the webinar.

As ever, thank you for the dedication of you and your teams during this prolonged period of emergency.

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>