



# Information for adult social care providers

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YOURSELF  
& OTHERS**



## Bulletin 71 – 29 January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below the latest information regarding vaccinations and other COVID-19 news.

### New social care provider and staff vaccination enquiry email address

A new email address has been set up to deal with queries from the internal and external social care workforce on accessing their vaccinations, and related matters. Please use this email address if you or your staff have queries regarding vaccination.

[socialcare-vaccination-enquiry@leics.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare-vaccination-enquiry@leics.gov.uk)

We aim to respond to enquiries within two working days.

Please note that it is not an enquiry service for the public - it is reserved for providers and staff, including social care personal assistants.

A web page is also being set up, as well as a telephone enquiry line – both are expected to be available during week commencing 1 February.

### COVID-19 vaccination resources

Translated vaccination materials are available on the links below, with updates continuing to be added to [this page on the gov.uk website](#):

- [COVID-19 vaccination: easy-read resources](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: women of childbearing age, currently pregnant or breastfeeding](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: guide for older adults](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: guide for healthcare workers](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: what to expect after vaccination](#)

## **Encouraging vaccinations in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities**

This link takes you to a short video developed by well-known members of the BAME community, encouraging vaccination uptake and dispels myths, fears and misconceptions about the vaccine. [https://youtu.be/wg00\\_7vSQis](https://youtu.be/wg00_7vSQis)

## **COVID-19 hospital hubs**

We have been advised by George Elliott Hospital (GEH) at Nuneaton that they have vaccination appointments available for eligible people in Leicestershire to use, where convenient. If your staff would like to book at GEH, please contact [socialcare-vaccination-enquiry@leics.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare-vaccination-enquiry@leics.gov.uk) to access the booking details.

## **COVID-19 vaccination data for the capacity tracker**

It is critical to monitoring the take up of the vaccination, including how best to support providers and staff to access the vaccine, that your organisation completes the vaccination take up information requested on the national capacity tracker regularly. Completion of the tracker is a requirement of receipt of the Infection Control Fund monies. Please contact the provider communication line on [enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk](mailto:enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk) if you have any difficulties in completing the tracker, and we will provide support.

## **Care home testing update: Lateral Flow Device (LFDs) approval for self-test granted**

The Department of Health and Social Care have announced an update on staff testing using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. Care home staff are now able to take and register their twice weekly LFD tests at home, before they arrive at the care home to start work.

This only applies to care homes.

## **Business Continuity Plans**

Providers are asked to review their business continuity plan to ensure areas such as extreme staff shortages are covered. We have found some providers have had loss of more than 50% of their staff due to isolation or testing positive for COVID-19 which can have a significant impact on service delivery. If you need support or guidance around this, please contact the provider communication line [enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk](mailto:enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk)

## **Statement on working during isolation period**

A Statement jointly issued by the Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England, Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Association of Directors of Public Health on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 has stated that under no circumstances should staff who have tested positive for Covid-19, regardless of whether they are

displaying symptoms or not, work in a care setting until the legally required period of self-isolation has ended. The [national guidance](#) is clear on this.

Where the CQC has concerns, it will take swift regulatory action.

This is to ensure the health and social care system works in the best interests of all.

Staff who are off sick or are self-isolating should continue to be paid their full wages. Employers are able to access funding for this purpose from the Infection Control Fund.

### **Rapid Testing Fund**

In Bulletin 70, we highlighted the Government's Rapid Testing Fund that has been set up to support Lateral Flow Device Testing in care homes.

Leicestershire received £1.6m of the £149m national Rapid Testing Fund. The 80% payment to care homes has been initiated and your payment should be in your bank account by Wednesday 3 February. The sum paid to you is equivalent to £263 per bed.

Further information will follow about use of the 20% discretionary part of the fund, the grant conditions and the monthly reporting required. Full details of the Rapid Testing Fund, including the grant conditions, can be found on the [DHSC website](#).

Yours sincerely

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*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>*