



Bulletin 111 – 15 October 2021

Dear Colleague,

Please find below our regular bulletin of updates for your teams.

Winter vaccines – COVID-19 and seasonal flu

Two new Q&A leaflets have been issued, focusing on COVID-19 booster and seasonal flu vaccinations this winter. You can download [care staff winter vaccine materials](#), including posters, social media graphics and stickers now.

A film has been launched to promote the winter vaccines, which you can find [here](#).

Needle phobia e-learning module

Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) has created a short, 5-minute video with their Cognitive Behaviour Therapists to tackle needle phobia. You may find this useful for any staff who have such concerns:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SN3IBvW3Eg>

Leicestershire County Council Passenger Fleet Team vaccination statement

Leicestershire County Council's Passenger Fleet Team (PFT) is committed to ensuring the safety of its staff and customers. Following the release of Government guidance 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes' PFT would like to confirm arrangements in place to ensure the ongoing safety of staff and residents in affected settings and to assist CQC registered providers in meeting their legal obligations.

The drivers and escorts of PFT have all been reminded that, from 11 November 2021, transport arrangements are for a 'door to door service' for passengers and the default instruction to transport staff is not to physically enter the care home building.

However, on occasion, there can be operational advantages to both parties if transport staff are allowed to enter a building. Under those circumstances drivers and escorts will be advised that they can enter the building only if they are authorised by the care home in advance. Transport staff will be advised that to gain authorisation from the care home, they will need to have available proof of vaccination status, via one of the methods listed below:

- the NHS App
- the NHS website – NHS.uk
- the NHS COVID Pass letter

Whilst PFT actively encourages all employees to get vaccinated, having a full vaccination is not a mandatory requirement for transport roles at Leicestershire County Council. Drivers who have not yet received their full vaccination or are unable to demonstrate their status will not be able to access the care home building under any circumstances.

All drivers will continue to follow the COVID-19 controls applicable to their duties.

Responsibility for authorising and managing access for all purposes rests with the individual care home provider.

If you require any further information please contact Lisa Weir, Team Manager Passenger Fleet Team 0116 305 8186.

National funding update

ICTF3 announced

The extension of the Infection Control and Testing Fund was announced last week, and detailed information is awaited. It appears similar to ICTF2 but with additional emphasis on COVID-19 and flu vaccination support. There is more information in the [DHSC announcement](#) and a bulletin summary will follow when details are published.

ICTF2 final report

A final reminder that we emailed providers on 1 October to request completion of the ICTF2 Final Return.

ICTF2 payments were issued to support care homes and community providers with eligible COVID-19 related expenditure for the period 1 July to 30 September 2021. For information about the fund please see [Bulletin 97](#)

Please use this link to complete the online return by Monday 18 October 2021 detailing your Infection Control and Testing Fund eligible expenditure for 1 July to 30 September 2021: <https://surveys.leics.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162029249296>

- Care homes will be required to report all eligible infection control and testing expenditure by month for July, August and September 2021
- Community providers will be required to report all eligible infection control expenditure by month for July, August and September 2021

By accepting payments from this fund your organisation accepts the grant conditions, which are detailed in the [ICTF2 pages of the DHSC website](#). Completion of this return is a condition of receipt of the funding for providers with services registered by the CQC in Leicestershire.

If you fail to report, or to comply with any of the grant conditions, you risk having to return payments made to your organisation.

ICTF1 closure processes

In early November we will issue invoices to reclaim monies from providers that have either not reported or reported an underspend. Previously, we have deducted those amounts from subsequent grant payments, but based on provider feedback and to improve clarity we will deal with those refunds separately via an invoice.

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

Frailty assessment e-learning

E-learning has been developed to standardise training and knowledge of frailty as a complex multi-system, long term condition. It is free to access here: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/frailty/>

Social Care Festival of Practice

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Practice for social care will run from Saturday 13 to Friday 19 November. It is a week-long celebration for everyone working in health, social care and emergency services in LLR as a thank you for their continuing hard work amid the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We know how hard all of our colleagues have worked and continue to work, so this provides opportunities for self-care, for people whose job it is to care.

There are a wide variety of free events available here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/learning-and-development-festival-of-practice-34952838083>. Booking is essential.

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>