



Information for adult social care providers

Covid-19 and Flu

Bulletin 114 – 4 November 2021

Dear Colleague,

11 November deadline for full vaccination for care home workers



The deadline for care home staff to be fully vaccinated is fast approaching.

Care home staff, and those entering care homes to work (including agency staff) or volunteers need to have received both doses of the vaccination by 11 November when new government legislation comes into force.

Workers yet to receive their second dose should already have an appointment booked. Please ensure staff can attend their appointments and if they have had to cancel, that they have been able to rebook.

The Get Vaxxed website contains up to date venue details and availability, as well as guidance on how to book the second dose of the vaccination:

<https://bit.ly/GetVaxxedLLR>

Visiting professionals, tradespeople and volunteers entering care homes

You will recall that within [bulletin 102](#) we shared template wording to use or adapt for communication with the relevant organisations who will be entering your home from 11 November.

The DHSC has produced a similar letter for care home providers to share with visiting professionals, tradespersons, and volunteers about the new regulations. The letter outlines who the policy does and does not apply to, how individuals can evidence vaccination exemptions and what the role of a registered person in CQC registered care homes is when implementing the policy.

You can download the letter [here](#).

Verifyplus for care homes

Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council have supported the development of an app by EMCARE to assist with the recording and management of people entering the care home as fully vaccinated or exempt. All care homes within Leicestershire have been given 6 months free access to the Verifyplus app, from 11 November 2021.

An explanatory video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmpk1hQVZjw>

You can access the app immediately in preparation for 11 November 2021 – see <https://www.verifyplus.co.uk/>. Please email support@verifyplus.co.uk and you will be issued with a promotion code, which you can enter on registration.

Verifyplus helps care homes to:

- Meet legislative requirements
- Support a robust system for compliance, security and GDPR
- Reduce staff and manager burdens - saving time and resources
- Free up staff time
- Minimise conflict with doorstep challenges
- Instantly record and recall information
- Delegate to staff through secure logins
- Avoid use of paper records
- Support IPC and workforce resilience

COVID-19 vaccination boosters

The Department of Health and Social Care has released a statement announcing that COVID-19 booster vaccines can now be given sooner than six months after the second dose to certain people who fall under the at-risk category, where their vaccination makes operational sense. To view the full statement, [please see here](#).

Flu vaccination available to book online

Adult social care staff providing face-to-face services are eligible to receive a free NHS flu jab and can book theirs today. We strongly urge you to encourage your staff to take up the offer of a free flu vaccination as soon as possible.

Flu jabs are being given at:

- Pharmacies offering the service - search and book at:
<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/pharmacy-nhs-flu-vaccine-service>
- Local GP surgeries
- Midwifery service if the recipient is pregnant

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever to prevent the spread of flu and avoid the danger of contracting both flu and COVID-19.

Getting the vaccine will help to protect staff, their family, and the people they care for from getting the flu. Vaccination helps to keep social care services running and reduces the burden on the NHS during the winter.

Alongside the COVID-19 vaccinations, having the flu jab can help to build the best defence this winter. If offered both the booster and flu vaccines, it's safe to have them at the same time.

- A short video on the winter vaccination programme can be viewed at
<https://youtu.be/QQitHbIXyN8>
- Find out more about the flu vaccine at
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>
- Information on flu vaccination for social care providers is at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-for-social-care-staff/flu-vaccination-guidance-for-social-care-workers>

IPC Team number

Unfortunately, there was an error in the listing of the new IPC Team contact number on a previous bulletin. The correct details are as follows – please make a note of them:

- Email: infection@leics.gov.uk
- Phone number: 0116 305 5121

Harrogate IPC Team newsletters

Many of you will already be aware of the free resources and newsletters available from the Harrogate IPC team. They produce these resources for care homes and home care. The resources can be accessed via these links:

- Care homes: <https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/news/ipc-bulletin-for-care-homes/> and
- Home care: <https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/news/ipc-bulletin-for-domiciliary-care/>

Leicestershire and Rutland DHU urgent falls response service

From 11 October 2021, EMAS and health and social care professionals been able to refer patients to a new urgent falls response service, which will run for a pilot period of at least six months, during which regular service review and evaluation will take place.

This new service is for patients who are resident in the county of Leicestershire or Rutland who have fallen on the floor and cannot get up, and who have no suspected serious injury. There are two falls response vehicles based at Oakham and Loughborough. Each vehicle is staffed with a clinician and a health care assistant and is equipped with lifting / patient handling equipment, along with medications commonly used in urgent care. The service is delivered by DHU Health Care.

Who can refer?

- EMAS
- 111
- Nursing and residential care home staff
- GPs and staff based within practices including practice nurses
- Health visitors
- Midwives
- Community nurses
- Adult social care workers
- Home care workers
- Community occupational therapists and physiotherapists
- Social prescribers
- Care coordinators

How to refer

Referrals are currently accepted between 8.00 and 20.00, Monday to Friday. To refer a patient please telephone 0116 295 0095. Please note this number is not for public use.

Phase 2 of this pilot will see the inclusion of weekend service provision – further information will be available shortly.

Referral criteria

All patients residing within Leicestershire and Rutland who have fallen and are unable to get up either independently or with assistance of bystanders.

Exclusion criteria

The below list are examples of patients not appropriate for the service. Cases will be triaged on an individual basis and this list is not exhaustive:

- Anyone in a public place
- Anyone no longer on the floor
- Patients located outside of Leicestershire county and Rutland (including Leicester city residents)
- Head injury and on anticoagulants
- Obvious bony injury
- Severe uncontrolled haemorrhage
- Witnessed loss of consciousness at any time pre or post fall
- Signs of cerebrovascular accident / stroke or seizures as a consequence of injury
- Fall from height above 2 metres

There may be occasion where exclusion criteria may apply, however, if it is clear from the Respect form or advanced care plan that the patient is not for admission then a referral may still be made and our clinician will assess whether a visit is appropriate.

In the absence of a Respect form or advanced care plan a health care professional / EMAS may refer if they believe a visit may be in the patient's best interest. The service's clinician will assess whether a visit is appropriate.

What happens when a patient is referred?

- A non-clinical member of staff will take demographic details and ask a number of questions
- A clinician will review the referral within 15 minutes to ensure the referral is safe and appropriate. Where necessary they will call the patient / referrer to clarify any information
- The service aims to visit appropriate patients who have been referred within 2 hours. Once the clinician is satisfied that it is safe to do so, the team will assist the patient off the floor and carry out any further assessments as required
- If there are any underlying medical problems or any injuries these will be treated and managed as appropriate. The clinician will make any onward referrals as required

For any queries or questions about the service, please contact the CCG service lead: alison.brooks@leicesterccg.nhs.uk

Virtual ‘Lead, Connect and Care’ Festival, 13-19 November 2021

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Health and Wellbeing team is pleased to invite you to its virtual ‘Lead, Connect and Care’ Festival this November, bringing together professionals from the health, social care, emergency services workforce and the charity sector to celebrate and explore the very best in leadership development, quality improvement and health and wellbeing.

The week-long, virtual event opens on World Kindness Day on the 13 November. The event will include sessions from expert speakers, world-café style meetings showcasing improvement initiatives from across LLR, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire and wellbeing sessions designed to improve both physical and mental health.

For further details of the event and its sessions, and to register, please see <https://llracademy.org/event-dashboard/>

Care Professional of the Year Awards 2022 – free nominations open!

Inspired to Care and Leicestershire County Council continue to be the proud headline sponsor for this year’s Care Professional of the Year Awards.

Never more than in the past two years has the workforce demonstrated resilience and devotion to the people they support. We believe that our care and support professionals should be recognised for all the hard work they do, supporting people in Leicestershire every single day.

To nominate against any of the 13 categories, please go to the official event website: www.leicestershirelivecareprofessionaloftheyear.co.uk

The event will take place on Thursday 10 February 2022 and will be streamed virtually again this year to ensure it’s accessible to as many people as possible, and it’s free.

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>