



Information for adult social care providers

Covid-19 and Flu

Bulletin 119 – 10 December 2021

Dear Colleague,

Letter from the Directors on boosters for care home workers

The Directors of Adult Social Services (DASS) and Directors of Public Health (DPH) for LLR have written to care homes to thank managers for their efforts in ensuring that staff are fully vaccinated and to provide information and resources on the booster programme. Please read the letter here:

<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/12/10/booster-letter-care-homes.pdf>

Booster jab available for over 40s

People aged 40 and over in England can now book their booster jab for three months after their second dose.

Some people aged 40 and over have already been invited for their top-up, but the latest change means you can now book the appointment yourself.

The programme is being vastly expanded due to the threat of the Omicron variant, which early data suggests spreads more easily than the current dominant variant Delta.

One route to book a booster jab is to book this yourself by using the online portal - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

The NHS is working on plans to offer a booster dose to everyone aged 18 years old and over, but this is not yet available.

Vaccination in pregnancy video

A video of experiences from women who contracted COVID-19 in pregnancy and who wish to urge others to be vaccinated can be viewed here

<https://vimeo.com/652051805/e1d8993ac8>

Specialist Learning Disability COVID booster clinic

A reminder that a specialist learning disability COVID vaccination clinic has been arranged for 15 December, 8.30-15.00 at the Peepul Centre. Please share this information with anyone with a learning disability who may be due for a first dose, second dose or booster vaccination.

Specific reasonable adjustments can be accommodated – such as for the person to be vaccinated in the car or a quiet area provided – and please ensure this is known at the time of the booking in order for clinic staff to prepare prior to arrival. People who are 16 and over can attend these clinics. Please ensure that you bring evidence of all previous doses administered when you attend.

Please book your appointment by contacting Zoe (zoe.powell6@nhs.net, 07917734861) who will be able to assist you. Please do not use general booking links as reasonable adjustments may not be possible.

COVID-19 fraudulent PCR test alert

There is a new scam concerning the Omicron variant of COVID-19. We have been informed the fraudsters have circulated posts on social media, purporting to be from the NHS, advising about availability of a newly developed PCR test that detects the Omicron variant. The post includes a link to order the test. These posts are fraudulent. Remember that fraudsters seek to play on people's anxieties and concerns - it's important to remain fraud aware at all times.

Seasonal decorations

It's wonderful to brighten up settings at this time of year with festive decorations. Please read these tips to ensure that they can be enjoyed safely.

Decorations and IPC

Seasonal decorations can prevent effective cleaning of the environment and harbour bacteria and viruses. Some practical suggestions to allow residents and staff to enjoy a festive atmosphere over the season whilst ensuring good IPC practice can be accessed here

<https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/content/uploads/2021/11/Bulletin-Care-Homes-No-35-November-2021.pdf>

Christmas trees and fire safety

If you are displaying a real Christmas tree, please ensure that they are watered to avoid them drying out and presenting a fire risk. This one-minute video demonstrates the risk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0u5jCPHmevE>

Updated guidance: extension to self-certification

National guidance has been updated which extends the cut-off date for self-certification: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-medical-exemptions-for-covid-19-vaccination-of-people-working-or-deployed-in-care-homes/vaccination-as-a-condition-of-deployment-extension-to-self-certification-cut-off>

Carers who are unable to receive both vaccinations for specific medical reasons were able to apply for proof of their medical exemption status to ensure they could comply with the regulations. Before the formal process launched staff were able to self-certify they met the medical exemption criteria.

The process was initially in place for 12 weeks and was due to end on 24 December 2021. This has now been extended. This means self-certification forms will continue to be valid until 31 March 2022, so long as they were received before 24 December 2021.

Everyone who self-certifies as exempt from COVID-19 vaccination before 24 December 2021 will have until 31 March 2022 to secure formal proof of their medical exemption status or have both vaccinations. From 1 April 2022, they will either need to show proof of a formal medical exemption or be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to comply with the regulation and continue working in a CQC-regulated care home.

Care home workers who wish to apply for a formal medical exemption should do so as soon as possible and inform their employer of the outcome of their application once they receive it.

OTHER NEWS

People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform white paper

The white paper sets out a 10-year vision for adult social care and provides information on funded proposals that we will implement over the next 3 years. It explains how some of this money will be spent to begin to transform the adult social care system in England, such as new investments in:

- housing and home adaptations
- technology and digitisation
- workforce training and wellbeing support
- support for unpaid carers, and improved information and advice
- innovation and improvement

Alongside this, the Government has published a 'Transforming Social Care' [website](#).

The white paper sets out a range of policies which the Government will work on together with the sector and those who draw on care and support to implement over the next 3 years. These include:

- At least £500m so the social care workforce have the right training and qualifications, and feel recognised and valued for their skills and commitment.
- The government has committed to delivering a standalone dementia strategy in 2022. The strategy will focus on the specific health and care needs of people living with dementia and their carers.

The full white paper is available [here](#)

‘All About Medicines’ webinar for care home staff

The East Midlands Patient Safety Collaborative would like to invite you and your colleagues to a ‘Connecting Together’ East Midlands care home webinar on 20 January 2022 from 13.00-14.30.

Taking place online, the webinar is aimed at care home staff and managers in the region, and will focus on medicines in the care home setting.

It is part of the ‘Connecting Together’ series which aims to support a culture of continual learning and improvement in resident safety.

To register for free, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connecting-together-east-midlands-care-homes-webinar-tickets-168294032983>.

The full agenda for the session is on the booking page. To find out more about the Collaborative’s care homes work, [visit www.emahsn.org.uk/supportforcarehomes](http://www.emahsn.org.uk/supportforcarehomes)

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>