



# Information for adult social care providers

## Covid-19 and Flu

### Bulletin 118 – 3 December 2021

Dear Colleague,

#### **Omicron COVID-19 variant**

At the time of writing, no cases of the Omicron variant have been detected within Leicestershire or Rutland. Targeted measures to prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 Omicron variant are now in place across the country. All contacts notified of suspected Omicron cases must self-isolate, regardless of their age or vaccination status.

The regulations will be kept under review to ensure they only remain necessary and proportionate. If cases are suspected within a care home, outbreak measures will be in place for 28 days.

Please see the updated guidance [here](#).

#### **Pregnant women urged to get COVID-19 vaccine following new UK safety data**

The country's top doctors and medical experts are urging pregnant women to get their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, as new data published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) provides further evidence that the vaccines are safe for this group.

Catching COVID-19 carries far higher risk than having the vaccine and only 22% of women who gave birth in August were vaccinated.

- Of those pregnant women presently in hospital with symptomatic COVID-19, 98% are unvaccinated
- The vaccine continues to be the best way expectant mothers can protect themselves and their babies

A press release is available [here](#).

## **Mandatory vaccination in the wider social care sector**

Whilst we await the confirmed guidance from government around the mandatory vaccination, as a guide and recognising the timescales needed between each dose, we expect that any unvaccinated staff in relevant services will need to have had their first jab by 3 February 2022 to ensure they are fully vaccinated by 1 April 2022.

## **Specialist Learning Disability COVID booster clinic**

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 this clinic.

Please book your appointment by contacting Zoe ([zoe.powell6@nhs.net](mailto: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.

## **Free IPC newsletters**

IPC newsletters for care home and home care providers are produced by Harrogate Community IPC team – please see the following useful links:

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

<https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/content/uploads/2021/11/Bulletin-Domiciliary-Care-No-29-November-2021.pdf>

## **Reminder of the importance of completing the capacity tracker**

A reminder that you must complete the national capacity tracker at least once a week, updating all information, as part of the conditions of national funding.

As well as informing understanding of the management and impact of COVID-19, your data directly affects the national funding that we allocate to your organisation.

## **Amendments to visiting arrangements in care homes - key guidance updates**

There are no nationally set restrictions on friends and family visiting their loved ones in care homes. Providers should facilitate visits wherever possible, and to do so in a risk-managed way. Additional measures are in place to facilitate visiting while keeping care home staff and residents safe, including IPC measures, individual risk assessments and testing arrangements.

Visiting is an integral part of care home life. It is vitally important for maintaining the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents. Visiting is also crucial for family and friends to maintain contact and life-long relationships with their loved ones, and to contribute to their support and care. Physical contact should be supported to help health and wellbeing, as long as IPC measures are in use, such as visiting in a ventilated space, using appropriate PPE for the visit, and hand-washing before and after holding hands. Gloves are not required for this. Visitors should wear a face mask when visiting the care home, particularly when moving through the care home.

Visitors should not enter the care home if they are feeling unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19 and are fully vaccinated. Transmissible viruses such as flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and norovirus can be just as dangerous to care home residents as COVID-19. If visitors have any symptoms that suggest other transmissible viruses, such as cough, high temperature, diarrhoea or vomiting, they should avoid the care home until at least 5 days after they feel better.

Residents should be supported to undertake visits out of the care home and will only need to isolate following an emergency stay in hospital if they test positive for COVID-19, or following a visit that has been deemed high-risk following an individual risk assessment. Identified contacts of COVID-19 cases are advised not to visit the care home, even if they are fully vaccinated (presumably for 10 days since they were last in contact with someone with COVID-19). Where visits do occur, visitors should have received a negative PCR test result prior to their visit, and a negative lateral flow test result earlier in the day of their visit. Care homes should consider both of these when screening visitors.

During an outbreak, care providers should also continue to offer visits in well-ventilated spaces with substantial screens, visiting pods or from behind windows. Rooms should be left to ventilate with external doors and windows open between uses wherever possible, if a comfortable temperature for residents and visitors can be maintained

Visits that should be enabled in all circumstances (including outbreaks) now includes professional visits. This includes non-clinical visitors such as hairdressers. End of life visits and visits by essential care givers should also be enabled in all circumstances.

For further information see link to guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

### **Changes in guidance for Supported Living**

Routine movement of care staff between shared living services and other health and social care settings should be avoided to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other infections. Supported living providers may refer to the [updated care home guidance](#) for advice on how to manage staff movement.

Supported living settings comparable to care homes should refer to the [guidance on admission and care of residents in a care home during COVID-19](#) for advice on the

self-isolation of people upon discharge from hospital. As set out in the guidance, managers should also conduct a dynamic risk assessment to help support this process.

Service users returning from hospital following an overnight stay for elective (planned) care will not be asked to self-isolate provided the following criteria is satisfied and should avoid contact with others that are highly vulnerable:

1. The person admitted is fully vaccinated, wherever possible.
2. Local guidance from the director of public health about community transmission of variants of concern is followed.
3. The person admitted has no known contact with a COVID-19 positive person.
4. The person receives a negative PCR test result following their return to the setting.

People discharged from hospital following an admission for emergency care should isolate, upon arrival, for 14 days, within their own room. This should begin from the day the individual returns to their supported living setting.

Providers should ensure service users and their family members understand why self-isolation is needed, what it will look like and how long it will be for to ensure efforts are made to make it easier for them.

### **COVID Pass fraud**

Criminals are using the NHS COVID Pass as a way to target the public by convincing them to hand over money, financial details and personal information. The NHS App is available in England for free. The NHS COVID Pass is free. The NHS will never ask for payment or any financial details and will never issue fines or penalties relating to your NHS COVID Pass.

These [resources](#) can be used when communicating with people to raise awareness of fraud, to encourage people to be alert and to guide people on how to get their free NHS COVID Pass.

### **Infection Control and Testing Fund round 3 (ICTF3)**

The first 'direct' payments have been issued to community providers; one calculated at £53 per client for infection control and the other calculated at £11 per client for vaccination. Each provider will receive two separate payments. As specified by the grant conditions, the client count is the number reported on the Home Care Tracker on 22 September 2021.

The first 'direct' payments have been processed for care homes; one calculated at £161 per bed for infection control, one calculated at £115 per bed for testing and the other calculated at £12 per bed for vaccination. Each care home will receive three separate payments by Friday 10 December. As specified by the grant conditions, the bed count is the number reported on the CQC listing dated 1 September 2021.

Where a provider or care home has an outstanding invoice in relation to the Infection Control Fund (rounds 1 and 2) or the Rapid Testing Fund, ICTF3 payments have been held pending settlement of those invoices.

In the coming week, the first ICTF3 return, detailing eligible expenditure for October and November 2021 will be requested via an online form.

If you have any questions please contact Dave Pruden at [Dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Webinar recording – Care Home Patient Review**

A recording of the webinar to showcase the newly launched Care Home patient review (EHCH) for practice systems is available here - <https://youtu.be/6WmlMqAGAG4>

The review can be used to record baseline observations, a comprehensive geriatric assessment and has links to ReSPECT and care planning.

### **Free diabetes care home training programme**

*What is Eden CARES?*

Eden Cares is a free online educational programme designed to educate and improve the knowledge and confidence of care home staff and community care teams to effectively support people with Diabetes.

*Who is this training programme intended for?*

Eden Cares is intended for individuals who support people living with diabetes in either a care home or home care environment, such as care home staff and community care teams, including registered nurses and non-registered practitioners (HCAs) or Social Care workers.

*What are the potential benefits?*

- Reduce the number of insulin errors in care homes
- Enhance insulin safety (correct storage, dosing and administration of insulin)
- Reduce the number of diabetes related hospital admissions
- Reduce the number of GP and ambulance call outs relating to diabetes
- Increase the number of staff within these areas with insulin delegation responsibilities
- Reduce the number of community Nurse visitations to administer insulin
- Enhance and maintain quality of life for people with diabetes

*What to expect from the training programme?*

The training programme consists of three elements: a recorded session, three self-led online learning modules and mentoring support through a virtual discussion forum.

## How to get started?

For further information please see leaflet attached and to register [click here](#)

If you have any questions regarding this programme please email: [eden@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:eden@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## Dentistry and access to oral health

There are a number of routes to access dentistry for care home residents. The type of service available is dependent upon the person's frailty score.

<a href="#">Clinical Frailty Scale</a> 1- Very Fit 2- Well 3- Managing Well 4- Vulnerable 5- Mildly frail	<a href="#">Clinical Frailty Scale</a> 6- Moderately frail	<a href="#">Clinical Frailty Scale</a> 7- Severely frail 8- Very severely frail 9- Terminally ill
High street dentistry	High street dentistry OR Special Care Dentistry	Domiciliary dental care
<p><u>High street dentistry</u> To find an NHS dentist, click on the links: <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/dentists">www.nhs.uk/dentists</a> OR <a href="http://NHS111">NHS 111</a> (online or phone 111)</p> <p>If there are still difficulties finding an NHS dentist, contact one of the following: <a href="#">local NHS England and Improvement area team</a> <a href="#">NHS England Customer Contact Centre</a> <a href="#">Healthwatch Leicester &amp; Leicestershire</a> <a href="#">Healthwatch Rutland</a></p>	<p><u>High street dentistry</u> To find an NHS dentist, click on the links: <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/dentists">www.nhs.uk/dentists</a> OR <a href="http://NHS111">NHS 111</a> (online or phone 111)</p> <p>If there are still difficulties finding an NHS dentist, contact one of the following: <a href="#">local NHS England and Improvement area team</a> <a href="#">NHS England Customer Contact Centre</a> <a href="#">Healthwatch Leicester &amp; Leicestershire</a> <a href="#">Healthwatch Rutland</a></p>	<p><u>Domiciliary dental care</u> Domiciliary care for patients with long term and / or progressive medical conditions; mental illness or dementia, causing disorientation and confusion in unfamiliar environments; or increasing frailty which means that they are housebound.</p> <p>Referrals are accepted from Care Homes. Forms can be requested and sent either by post or email: Referrals Administrator Community Dental Services Special Care Dentistry Service Westcotes Dental Clinic Westcotes Health Centre Fosse Road South</p>

		Leicester LE3 0LP Tel: 0333 2079953 Email: cds.leicsreferrals@nhs.net from a secure email address
--	--	--

Please see further information about the oral health pathway [here](#) and a presentation about types of dentistry available and funding [here](#).

### **Developing Improvement Leaders - free course - expression of interest**

Are you someone who manages or has a leadership role in services and enjoys influencing for improvement? Would you benefit from an opportunity to develop and further equip you to enable change? If so, this is an exciting opportunity to participate in the Developing Improvement Leaders course.

The East Midlands Patient Safety Collaborative are offering 15 fully-funded places to join the Developing Improvement Leaders programme, provided by the Advanced Quality Alliance (Aqua); to support delivery of the National Patient Safety Improvement Programme (NatPatSIP) in the East Midlands.

The Developing Improvement Leaders Programme offers a range of different elements to support health and social care leaders who drive safety and improvement while maintaining a full-time role elsewhere in the system. The programme also provides a forum for sharing experiences, learning and ideas, between different workstreams.

Delivered over six months, the key elements of the programme include:

- Individual learning plans
- 'Bite size' learning packages
- Group learning sessions (two days)
- Action learning sets (four half-day sessions x three groups)
- Community of practice
- Learning capture
- Signposting and resources

When applying, please answer these three questions. Please ensure you keep within the word count of 600 words, this is for all three questions.

1. Why does this course appeal to you? *(Tell us about your hopes, aspirations, and intentions.)*
2. How will your participation lead to you and others that you work with to carry out improvement work? *(Tell us about an idea, a problem you would try and solve or an aim you have in mind to apply this learn too.)*
3. What professional or working groups, networks, Communities of Practice or learning groups are you working with now, describe your involvement. Or you

could describe how you intend to work with any of these after this course? (*We are not looking for all of these, one will be enough*)

Applications must be received by 10 December 2021. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Michaela Thompson [michaela.thompson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:michaela.thompson@nottingham.ac.uk) or call 07811 020061.

### **Information and Support Directory**

Please consider adding your business to the Information and Support Directory. This is free to use and accessed widely by professional staff, carers and people using a direct payment.

[https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/directories/information-and-support-directory?f%5B0%5D=field\\_directory\\_audience%3A10271&f%5B1%5D=field\\_directory\\_name%3A10226](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/directories/information-and-support-directory?f%5B0%5D=field_directory_audience%3A10271&f%5B1%5D=field_directory_name%3A10226)

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>