



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Issue 79 – 26 March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Local reflections - a year on from first lockdown

Tuesday 23 March marked one year since the start of the first national lockdown. Leaders across the city, county and Rutland shared a message of remembrance, thanks and hope - [you can read more here](#).

In a short video, police, council and NHS chiefs are joined by the Lord-Lieutenant in remembering those who have lost their lives to COVID-19 and thanking everyone who has played their part in the fight against it. You can watch the video at <https://youtu.be/NrqKEs3Hrtc>

A year on from 23 March 2020, there have now been over 79,402 cases across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and sadly 2,380 people have lost their lives. Thank you for everything you have done to keep our residents, service users, staff and families safe in what has been an incredibly challenging year for social care – we could not have done it without you.

It has been a very hard year for everyone – but we hope you are able to take some time this week to reflect.

Messages of Thanks board

To mark a year since the first lockdown, Inspired to Care are launching a [Messages of Thanks](#) community message board on their website and we invite you to make a contribution to this project.

The purpose of Messages of Thanks is to give a space for people across Leicestershire to say thank you to the care and support professionals in their community who have worked throughout the pandemic to keep people safe and well.

It is quick and easy to submit a message; simply visit www.inspiredtocare.co.uk/thankyou and follow the link to the submission form.

Follow Inspired to Care on [Facebook](#), Instagram (@inspired.to.care) and LinkedIn.

Fit test operator training

The Leicester Leicestershire & Rutland Local Resilience Forum (LRF) are offering free training for providers across LLR who are conducting aerosol generating procedures and therefore need to use FFP3 masks.

This Fit Test Operator Training course is aimed at those who, as part of their role have responsibility to manage or conduct Fit Testing in the workplace.

Course content includes:

- Regulations and guidance
- Examination procedures for RPE, identification of maintenance problems
- The purpose and applicability of Fit testing
- Correct donning procedures and pre-use fit checks
- Procedures for selection of adequate and suitable RPE
- Fit Test procedures and purpose of the Fit test exercises
- Fit factors and protection factors
- Capabilities and limitations of the Fit Test equipment
- Set up and diagnostic checks
- Troubleshooting & problem solving
- Practical fit testing
- Fit test failures

The face-to-face training will take place in person at County Hall, Glenfield LE3 8RL for a maximum of 8 delegates per session.

Training is available on:

- Friday 16 April, 9.30 – 14.00
- Tuesday 20 April, 9.30 – 14.00

For further details and to book a place please telephone 0116 3052169 or email adminteamcoalville@leics.gov.uk

‘Check before you share’ – vaccine false information

Sharing false information about the COVID-19 vaccine can be dangerous. Make sure you’re not contributing to the spread of harmful content online.

When false information is shared, it can take on a life of its own and have serious consequences. Recently there has been a lot of false information about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Check out the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport’s social media toolkit for short and shareable posts, with simple tips that will empower communities with the resources they need to help stop the spread of misinformation. The [toolkit](#)

includes videos, animations and quotes encouraging people to fact-check information before sharing online.

The NHS is the best source of information about the COVID vaccine - find out more [here](#)

‘Dose 1’ care home worker vaccinations

To ensure that COVID-19 vaccinations are as convenient as possible for the workforce, we have arranged for a vaccination team including a doctor, nurses and health care assistants to visit Leicestershire care homes on Tuesday 30 March for workers wishing to have their first vaccine dose.

Slots for these visits are strictly limited - if you would like to be considered please contact enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk by 9.00 on Monday 29 March with the number of workers consenting and able to have their first dose on that day. We will be in touch to let you know whether a visit will be possible. Please note that this offer is only available on Tuesday 30 March for workers wishing to have their first dose.

We reported in the last bulletin that dose 2 visits have begun in care homes; please make every effort to encourage staff to be available for their second dose when the vaccination team visits.

Home care testing

Home care testing results recorded are lower than expected - providers have reported care professionals are finding it easier to attend local test centres rather than carry out home test kits and, in some cases, are not carrying them out at all. It is important that we encourage staff to undertake these tests and to register to support the national effort in controlling this virus.

It is important that we support our care professionals in this additional ask, to guide and help them understand the reasons for testing to include the benefits that impact both professionally and personally and the vital part that testing holds in keeping people safe. We know that providers are already supporting the home care testing process – here are some ideas which many of you are already using to encourage participation:

- Supervisions and one-to-ones to address individual concerns and difficulties that staff may have
- Team meetings to discuss the process of taking the test, allowing staff to share experiences
- Offering help to coordinate the taking and registering of the tests for those staff which require additional support within the workplace
- Weekly reminder to staff including re issuing or your Unique Organisation number for registering (UON)

Home care testing registration must be done via gov.uk website using the your UON and helpful step by step guidance can be found here for:

- Care workers - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-homecare-workers/a-testing-service-for-homecare-workers-in-england#end-to-end-process-homecare-workers>
- Providers - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-homecare-workers/a-testing-service-for-homecare-workers-in-england#end-to-end-process-agency-managers>

Home care over the Easter period

As we approach the Easter break it is vital that discharges from hospital continue to flow as quickly as possible, and with this mind please could providers consider the following when reviewing capacity:

- Await care reviewed at point of receipt at 9.00 and 13.00 with offers being submitted to brokerage by return
- Start dates to be at the earliest opportunity
- Offers of care to be prioritised by Hospital Discharges / HART transfers / community packages

Thank you for your support.

Funding update

ICF2

The overspend payments, funded from the ICF2 Discretionary Fund, have been calculated by using the reported expenditure for the 4 months to the end of January to project expected expenditure to the end of March.

Care homes reporting average expenditure below £995 per bed and community providers reporting average expenditure below £504 per client will receive full payment of the projected overspend. Providers reporting higher average costs than those will see the overspend payment capped. The cap has been set at 150% of the cost per client / bed set out in the funding guidance. By capping the overspend payment we are able to pay more money to more providers that are operating more cost effectively.

A number of providers, mainly in the community, are reporting underspends and so may have to refund those monies - more information will follow in a future bulletin on our approach to those.

Workforce Capacity Fund

Vaccination payments have been issued to community and residential providers, equivalent to £20 per vaccinated employee. Those payments will arrive in provider bank accounts by 31 March.

DHSC announcement

Further funding to support infection control and testing from April onwards was recently announced - we await further information and will keep you informed.

For all funding streams, please make sure that you follow grant conditions and reporting requirements.

For further information, please contact dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk.

Fortnightly provider conference calls

We run fortnightly open conference calls with adult social care providers in Leicestershire to share information, engage on key topics including finance, discuss your concerns and queries, and provide useful resources. We find the conversation invaluable in shaping our planning and understanding how to continue to support providers through this unprecedented time.

We have now extended the calls through to the summer – to join them, either follow the link on the related email that you are sent fortnightly, or if that isn't to hand, please ring in using the details at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/working-with-you-during-coronavirus/provider-teleconferences>. No registration or code is required. The future call dates and times are also available on that page.

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>