



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Issue 76 – 5 March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As always, this bulletin contains the latest COVID-19 information relating to adult social care, including a summary below of the care home visiting guidance released yesterday.

Guidance on Care Home Visiting – updated 4 March 2021

The new national guidance has now been published and applies from Monday 8 March 2021. It replaces previous government guidance on care home visiting and sets out advice to support safe visiting as follows:

- Every care home resident will be able to nominate a single named visitor who will be able to enter the care home for regular visits.
- All visitors should be screened for symptoms of acute respiratory infection before entering (see guidance at the link below for screening questions).
- These visitors should be tested using rapid lateral flow tests before every visit, must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and follow all other infection control measures (which the care home will guide them on) during visits. The expectation, in line with the guidance, is that testing will continue take place 'on site' just prior to the visit.
- If the visitor tests positive, they should be offered a confirmatory PCR test by the care home and leave the premises immediately. If the PCR test is positive, they must [self-isolate in line with current guidance](#).
- Visitors who have recently tested positive for COVID-19 should not routinely be retested within 90 days unless they develop new symptoms, or unless specific infection detection and response plans are in place for individuals or in the local area already.
- Visitors and residents are advised to keep physical contact to a minimum. Visitors and residents may wish to hold hands, but should bear in mind that any contact increases the risk of transmission. There should not be close physical contact such as hugging.

- Residents with the highest care needs will also be able to nominate an essential care giver. These visitors will be required to participate in further testing arrangements (for details see full guidance link below) and follow the same guidance as care home staff including use of PPE.
- Further information detailing the practicalities of administering tests and registering results can be found in the [guidance on lateral flow testing of visitors in care homes](#). Care homes should obtain consent from visitors prior to participating in testing.
- Care homes can continue to offer visits to other friends or family members with arrangements such as outdoor visiting, substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows.
- While the vaccine is bringing much needed hope and protection, until more is known about its impact on transmission, residents and visitors should continue to adhere to all the infection control measures that are in place now.
- It is not a condition of visiting that the visitor or the resident should have been vaccinated. However, it is strongly recommended that all visitors and residents take up the opportunity to be vaccinated when they are invited to do so through the national programme.
- As has been the case throughout the pandemic response, visits in exceptional circumstances such as end of life should continue in all circumstances (including in the event of an outbreak).
- In the event of an outbreak in a care home, the home should immediately stop visiting (except in exceptional circumstances such as end of life – and for essential care givers) to protect vulnerable residents, staff and visitors.

See link to the full document below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

The LLR Care Home Visiting Policy will be updated in due course to reflect these changes in national guidance.

Five key messages to stop the spread in care homes

Care homes will have recently received to their email account a pack full of resources to assist with spreading five key messages amongst your team. They include the key messages on utilising PPE correctly, vaccinating, self-isolation, Hands-Face-Space and testing processes.

The resources are also available here:

<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/3/4/thank-you.pdf>

Vaccinations for frontline health and social care staff

Frontline social care staff remain eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination – if your staff have not yet had theirs it's not too late to book.

Join the millions of others who have received their first dose by booking at: nhs.uk/Covid-Vaccination

You still need to follow the rules after you've had the COVID19 vaccination.

To explain why this is important, the NHS has created videos in a range of languages which you can access on [YouTube](#).

A payment will be made to providers for each worker who has received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by 19 March – please see the Workforce Capacity Fund section below for details.

Vaccination centre walk through videos

Leicestershire Partnership Trust has shared videos of three vaccination centres. These provide an insight into the layout of the centre and what to expect when receiving a vaccination:

- Fielding Palmer site: <https://youtu.be/nFhQkQ23KJE>
- Loughborough site: <https://youtu.be/UAytVKkzljik>
- Peepul Centre site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1LW-CUxNF4>

Reminder to cancel vaccination appointments if no longer required

In the last few days we have been advised that a significant number of vaccination appointments at hospital hub sites have been booked by social care workers but where no-one has attended. This included one occasion where several staff from one provider had not presented for their appointment.

Please remember that you can cancel your hospital hub appointment via the SwiftQueue or national booking system, and that it is important to do so if you cannot attend for any reason, such as if you are ill, needing to self-isolate, or if you have been offered a vaccination at a more convenient time or location. This will avoid wastage and ensure that appointments and the vaccine doses can be used to best effect to keep people safe from COVID-19 in Leicestershire.

Finance

Rapid Testing Fund

Based on analysis of the first monthly return, a second payment will be issued to care homes equivalent to £50 per registered bed. This equates to 15% of the fund meaning that 95% of the £1.6m Rapid Testing Fund for Leicestershire will have been issued to care homes. The balance is being held temporarily to support providers in other settings as needed.

Workforce Capacity Fund

A payment equivalent to £50 per employee for care homes and £90 per employee for community providers are in progress and expected to arrive in provider bank accounts next week.

A further payment of at least £20 per employee will be issued based on the number of staff that your organisation has vaccinated by 19 March 2021. This is in recognition of your critically important work to maximise staff vaccinations in a variety of ways including releasing them from their duties to attend their appointments and spending time answering your staff's questions about the vaccine.

Reporting

A request will be issued in the coming days to complete the monthly reports for Infection Control Fund – Round 2 and Rapid Testing Fund asking that you complete those as usual for expenditure up to 28 February by 15 March.

Further information will follow on the single report required for the Workforce Capacity Fund by 30 April.

Care Home Trusted Assessors – supporting care homes

Leicestershire County Council is working with EMCARE to provide two Care Home Trusted Assessors, who are accessible to support all care homes in the County.

Both Trusted Assessors are Registered Nurses with experience of working in care homes, are independent to the hospitals and are employed by EMCARE. They are in place to support care homes, saving providers' resources by minimising the time required for care homes to arrange a visit to the hospitals, and/or to speak to the hospitals to collate information to complete assessments. This supports residents to be discharged to care homes more quickly.

The roles support Leicestershire care homes by:

- undertaking assessments and reassessments on care homes' behalf, facilitating timely discharges of patients who are admitted to Leicestershire hospitals. These patients could be readmissions of existing residents back to care homes or new admissions.
- monitoring the progress of residents and updating care homes when any changes occur, including changes in needs and COVID-19 status.
- finding out further information from the hospital.

Please don't hesitate to contact them to enable them to help you:

- Milena Borisova,
07765 557 456, email address: milena.borisova@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
- Madalina Sovinschi,
07768 839 368, email address: madalina.sovinschi@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Message from NHS Counter Fraud Team about Lateral Flow Test kit scam

We have been made aware by the NHS Counter Fraud Team that Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) have been found for sale online and have sadly been traced back to a midlands-based home. We are sure that this must be an isolated incident and you of course know that the tests are there to keep your service users and staff safe. We have been asked to make it clear that the NHS Counter Fraud Team view this very seriously, as we know you do, and they will investigate and take any action required to address such incidents.

Capacity Tracker – infection control questions

Please ensure the Infection Control Fund questions are completed and reviewed as part of your update.

This information is considered by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The DHSC review the measures that homes have in place, along with hospital discharges. The DHSC consider whether the measures have been conducted correctly and establish if homes identify that they need additional support.

The questions about this in the capacity tracker have moved location. If you are having difficulty in locating them, please follow these steps:

1. After logging into the capacity tracker
2. Click on the '**Provider**' tab
3. Select the appropriate care home
4. Click on the set up / details tab
5. To the right of the home name the word '**edit**' is displayed – click on this.
6. Along the top of this edit page there are tabs. Select the **Infection Control** **fund** tab.
7. Answer questions as usual.

Thanks to you and your teams for your ongoing determination and energies.

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>