



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**

 Leicestershire
County Council

Bulletin 82 – 14 April 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Please find information below on a number of COVID-19 related matters.

COVID-19 vaccination update – amended guidance on AstraZeneca vaccination for those aged 29 and under

Public Health England has amended its guidance around the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination for people aged 29 and below.

This follows very careful review by the Medicines Healthcare Product Regulation Agency (MHPR) and the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) following reports of *extremely rare adverse events* of concurrent thrombosis (blood clots) and thrombocytopenia (low platelet count) following vaccination with the first dose of AstraZeneca.

Public Health England estimates the vaccination programme has prevented at least 6,000 deaths in the first three months of this year and incidents of adverse blood clotting events are extremely rare.

We have summarised their statement and guidance here for you:

- After weighing the balance of risks and benefits, JCVI advises prompt vaccination with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine benefits far outweigh the risk of adverse events for individuals 30 years of age and over and those who have underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease.
- The JCVI advises adults 29 and under with no underlying health conditions, including people prioritised for health or risk of exposure/transmission, who have not yet had a first dose should be offered an alternative COVID-19 vaccine if it is available.

- They state that everyone who has received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine should continue to be offered a second dose irrespective of age unless they have a history of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, acquired or hereditary thrombophilia, heparin-induced thrombocytopenia or antiphospholipid syndrome or they have experienced major venous and arterial thrombosis occurring with thrombocytopenia following vaccination with any COVID-19 vaccine.
- For first doses for individuals 30 years of age and over and those who have underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease who are scheduled to receive the first dose of AstraZeneca, vaccination should continue.

What this means for you if you are aged 29 and under:

- If you have already had your first dose of the AstraZeneca jab, your appointment can continue as normal, unless you have a history of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, acquired or hereditary thrombophilia, heparin-induced thrombocytopenia or antiphospholipid syndrome, or you have experienced major venous and arterial thrombosis occurring with thrombocytopenia following vaccination with any COVID-19 vaccine. If this applies to you, please contact your GP practice to discuss what is best for you, before attending your second dose appointment.
- If you had an appointment booked at a Hospital Hub in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for a first dose, this has been rebooked for a Pfizer vaccination instead. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the vaccine team: VacHubUHL@uhl-tr.nhs.uk.
- If you had booked an appointment at a vaccination centre (e.g. Peepul Centre) or a pharmacy via the National Booking Service, or you have booked an appointment at the Peepul Centre using a Swiftqueue link, your appointment will have been automatically cancelled. Please contact your GP practice to discuss the benefits and risks of receiving the AstraZeneca or another vaccine for you personally.
- If you have booked your appointment via your GP practice, your practice will contact you to discuss the benefits and risks of receiving the AstraZeneca or another vaccine for you personally and will rebook your appointment for a clinic offering the Pfizer vaccination.
- After speaking to a clinician at your GP practice, you can rebook your vaccination appointment, including for the AstraZeneca vaccine if you choose to do so, at any vaccination site as you have previously.
- If you have any queries or concerns, please contact your GP practice.

There are several updated COVID-19 vaccination resources including new advice, guidance and resources around vaccines and extremely rare adverse blood clotting including a new guidance leaflet from Public Health England.

- [Public Health England COVID-19 vaccination and blood clotting leaflet](#)
- [Public Health England webpage around the COVID-19 vaccination and blood clotting MHRA guidance](#)
- [MHRA information around the clot risk](#)
- [Information for UK recipients on COVID 19 Vaccine AstraZeneca – Updated 7 April 2021](#)

COVID-19 staff vaccination for care homes with older adult residents: national consultation

A 5-week consultation has been launched today (14 April) by the DHSC to explore whether staff in care homes with older adult residents in England should be required to have a COVID-19 vaccine to protect residents and staff from the virus.

At the time of writing the consultation details and feedback method had not been published but it is understood that they will be available today on the gov.uk website, along with confirmation of the formal end date for the consultation.

A press release giving an overview is available here: [Consultation launched on staff COVID-19 vaccines in care homes with older adult residents](#)

Testing information requests to care homes

Residential providers will no longer receive the weekly testing questionnaire from the Leicestershire County Council. This information will be gathered and analysed from the capacity tracker information that you submit instead.

We have made this change to ensure that you are not asked for the same or similar information more than once, to make the best use of your time.

Please ensure that you continue with your care home's COVID-19 testing regime, as it plays a vital role in identifying and containing the virus.

Fit test operator training

The Leicester Leicestershire & Rutland Local Resilience Forum (LRF) are offering free training for providers across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 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
- The purpose and applicability of Fit testing
- Procedures for selection of adequate and suitable RPE
- Fit factors and protection factors
- Set up and diagnostic checks
- Practical fit testing
- Examination procedures for RPE, identification of maintenance problems
- Correct donning procedures and pre-use Fit checks
- Fit Test procedures and purpose of the Fit test exercises
- Capabilities and limitations of the Fit Test equipment
- Troubleshooting & problem solving
- Fit test failures

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

Training is available on 12 May, 9.30–14.00.

For further details and to book a place please contact:

- Tel: 0116 3052169 or
- Email adminteamcoalville@leics.gov.uk

Infection Control and Testing Fund (ICTF)

We expect to make the initial payments from the ICTF to providers in early May, when the Infection Control Fund Round 2 (ICF2), and the Rapid Testing Fund (RTF) have both been reconciled.

To ease administration, any underspends reported on these funds will be deducted from the ICTF payments.

The payments to be made from the mandatory parts of the fund, per the DHSC guidance ('Annex B') are below.

Allocation to Care Homes			
	Mandatory Funding	Beds	Payment per Bed (£)
Infection control	1,184,854	5,244	226
Rapid Testing	927,455	5,244	177

Allocation to Community Providers			
	Mandatory Funding	Clients	Payment per Client (£)
Infection control	405,102	5,568	73

Community providers may also receive payment from the discretionary part of the testing fund in relation to rapid testing they undertake.

The final reports detailing expenditure up to 31 March for the ICF2 and RTF are due by 19 April. An email request has been sent - please submit your reports via the [online form](#).

For the Workforce Capacity Fund, we await a template from the DHSC and will advise of the reporting mechanism when we receive it.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Pruden at dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk.

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>