



Information

for adult social care providers



Bulletin 84 – 29 April 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Please find information below on several COVID-19 related matters to inform the work of your teams.

COVID-19 vaccination - dose 2

Social care workers and those who use adult social care services are now receiving their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Having the second dose is very important as it provides the maximum possible protection against COVID-19 for the recipient and those around them, including those accessing services, their colleagues, families, and the wider community.

Workers should be aware of when their next dose is due and should prioritise attendance. Any appointment which has to be moved must be rescheduled to within the period 77 to 84 days after their first dose.

Where care home workers have missed the second Primary Care Network vaccination visit to the home, please encourage and facilitate them to seek an appointment elsewhere.

Please also remind colleagues that appointments which are no longer required (e.g. due to booking a rescheduled second dose via a different route) must be cancelled to ensure that vaccination slots and doses are not wasted.

For those observing Ramadan, the British Islamic Medical Association advises that it is permissible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine whilst fasting during Ramadan.

Please remember to complete the national capacity tracker with comprehensive information on workers' vaccinations, for first and second doses, which enables us, and DHSC, to monitor take-up.

And finally, a reminder that workers who have not yet had their first dose for any reason remain eligible. Please contact the Social Care Vaccination Enquiry service at socialcare-vaccination-enquiry@leics.gov.uk if you encounter any difficulties with availability for rescheduled second doses, or first doses.

Visits out of care homes

The national guidance for visits out of care homes was revised this month and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home/visits-out-of-care-homes>.

A resident who makes a visit out of the care home is required to isolate for 14 days upon their return, even if the visit was for a short time and/or outdoors.

With national restrictions beginning to ease, care home residents may be very keen to go out in their local community. The guidance explains why, at present, this isolation after a visit out of the home is necessary - ultimately to protect the other residents within the home – since the environment outside a home is uncontrolled and those coming into contact with the person may not have had a recent COVID-19 test.

We will update you when the guidance is next revised.

New COVID-19 drop-in vaccination clinic in Beaumont Leys

Eligible people in Beaumont Leys are being invited to attend a drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinic which is being held at the Barley Croft Community Centre, 21 Malham Close, Leicester, LE4 0UT, from now until Friday 30 April 2021, noon-20.00 on each day. Those able to attend the session are those living or working in the Beaumont Leys area who are:

- Care or health workers eligible for the vaccine
- People aged 44 or over
- Anyone with a health condition which puts them at higher risk from COVID-19
- Carers (paid or unpaid)

Further detail is available at <https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/coronavirus-vaccine/beaumont-leys-drop-in-vaccination-clinic/>

Finance update

Infection Control Fund (ICF)

Provider reports show that the total residential spend was about £5.1m, almost 150% of the funding allocated in ICF2. The total community spend reported was just over £1m, some 64% of the funding which the Council set aside for community providers, including home care, supported living and extra care.

The higher spending in the residential sector has been mitigated by payments from the discretionary fund, so many care homes have had all reported costs met by the fund. A second overspend payment will be made to mitigate further the deficit faced by some homes. Refunds due will be deducted from the Infection Control and

Testing Fund (ICTF) payment that will be made in in May or repayment will be requested directly.

Rapid Testing Fund (RTF)

Total expenditure of £1.3m against the RTF was reported, which is less than the £1.5m issued. As with ICF2, refunds due will be deducted from the ICTF payment that will be made in in May, or repayment will be requested directly.

Reporting

The online form to report Workforce Capacity Fund activity and expenditure will be issued this week. The form to report April expenditure in relation to the ICTF will be made available next week.

Care home staff testing - why both PCR and LFT?

Following some queries we thought that it would be helpful to explain why it is necessary to have both PCR and LFT testing within care homes. The tests have different benefits and combining them on the same day gives the speed of LFT and also the higher sensitivity of PCR tests. LFTs help to quickly identify some individuals who have a large amount of the virus in their body and are very infectious. LFTs will not identify everyone who is infected, but we know that speed is important for stopping the spread of the virus. LFTs can help to give an earlier warning of infection in the care home, rather than waiting for the PCR result to return from the lab, helping to contain the infection as quickly as possible.

Since LFTs were introduced to care homes, over 21,000 positive cases in care homes have been found using rapid lateral flow tests, enabling action to be taken quickly to stop the spread and isolate the individual.

The PCR tests find people who are infected but were not identified by the LFT, for example people who have lower amounts of the virus in their body because they may be at the start of the infection. Using the LFTs midweek and on the same day as the PCR is the best way to identify people who are infectious, and the best way to use three tests in a week, according to public health experts. The LFTs help to identify some people who have become infectious since the last PCR was taken, and therefore taking one LFT on the same day as the PCR and one midweek is better than spreading the three tests out evenly through the week.

FFP3 fit test operator training

The Leicester Leicestershire & Rutland Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is 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
- 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 at County Hall, Glenfield LE3 8RL for a maximum of 8 delegates per session.

Training is available on 12 May, 9.30-14.00. If demand is higher than the spaces available, you will be added to a waiting list.

For further details and to book a place please contact 0116 305 2169 or email adminteamcoalville@leics.gov.uk.

Better Security, Better Care - free local support for care providers

EMCARE has been awarded a grant to deliver a free programme to support all local care providers registered with CQC across LLR. They can help care homes, home care providers, extra care, supported living and Shared Lives services supporting adults.

This programme is part of the national Better Security, Better Care programme, and will help you to complete the nationally recognised Data Security Prevention Toolkit (DSPT).

For further information you can contact the project directly - Baz Kanabar, Project Delivery Officer, dspt@emcare.org.uk, 07369 200 247.

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>