



# Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS  
**PROTECT  
YOURSELF  
& OTHERS**

 Leicestershire  
County Council

## Bulletin 93 – 16 June 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Please find information below on several COVID-19 related matters for you and your teams.

### Changes for care homes from 21 June

As part of limited changes to come into effect from Monday 21 June, the Prime Minister has announced further easing of restrictions on visits and admissions in care homes, which are:

- Care home residents will no longer need to isolate on return from a visit out of their care home, including overnight stays. Care homes will need to conduct individual risk assessments to ensure visits out are not high risk.
- Where specific criteria are met, including an enhanced testing regime, residents will also no longer need to isolate following admission to the care home from the community. Residents admitted from hospital or another care home, or who return from any overnight stay in hospital should still isolate for 14 days.
- All care home residents will be able to nominate an Essential Care Giver. Essential Care Givers are subject to the same PPE and testing requirements as staff and should always be able to visit care homes, including during an outbreak.

Full details of the changes that will come into effect can be found here: [\(COVID-19\) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

National guidance on care home visiting (in and out) and admissions is expected to be published in the next few working days. Please approach the above changes cautiously until the guidance is available.

## **Proposed mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for older people's care home workers**

You will recall that in April and May we alerted you to the government's proposals to make COVID-19 vaccination a condition of staff deployment in care homes for older people, and the related consultation. The outcome of the consultation has been published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/making-vaccination-a-condition-of-deployment-in-older-adult-care-homes/making-vaccination-a-condition-of-deployment-in-older-adult-care-homes>

Some media sources state today that the COVID-19 vaccine is now expected to be made compulsory for older people's care home staff in England. At the time of writing, this position had not been confirmed. Formal detail on the implementation, requirements and wider implications is awaited and will be shared with you in a future bulletin.

## **Drop-in COVID-19 clinics running at the Peepul Centre**

Drop-in COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccination clinics are running at the Peepul Centre in Leicester from Tuesday 15 to Sunday 20 June, 8.00-20.00 (until 16.00 on Friday). The clinics can be attended by anyone eligible for the vaccine across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who is aged 40 or over. This includes people who had their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine more than 8 weeks ago and have not yet had their second dose.

No appointments are needed, but those attending are reminded to bring ID. Further details can be found here: <https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/news/ccg-news/drop-in-astrazeneca-vaccine-clinics-at-peepul-centre-this-week/>

## **Reminder – drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Loughborough**

As mentioned in bulletin 92, drop-in vaccination clinics are currently running in Loughborough to make it more convenient for people, including adult social care workers, to receive their first COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Social care workers living or working in Loughborough are eligible to attend the remaining walk-in clinics, which are available this week on:

- Thursday 17 June to Sunday 20 June 2021 in Fearon Hall Community Centre, Rectory Road, Loughborough, LE11 1PL - 12.00-21.00

There is no need for workers to book – they can just turn up. However, please check the website for further details, including the eligibility information at <https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/additional-covid-vaccination-clinics/>

The clinics will all be offering the Pfizer vaccine which means it is suitable for people of all eligible ages and those who are pregnant.

People who would prefer to book an appointment in advance can do so at the Hospital Hubs via <https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/leicesterc19v.php>

## **WhatsApp information service for care homes and home care**

We recently introduced our new WhatsApp information service for care homes and home care providers to supply specific IPC and COVID-19 related messages to share with your teams.

We have had an excellent response from providers, and messages are now being issued at the rate of approximately 1-2 per week, to add value to your internal communications.

It's not too late to sign up – for more details please see:

- Bulletin 86, for care homes:  
<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/5/13/information-for-adult-social-care-providers-issue-86.pdf>
- Bulletin 87, for home care:  
<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/5/18/information-for-adult-social-care-providers-issue-87.pdf>

## **Wearing PPE in hot weather**

Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) in warm or hot environments increases the risk of heat stress. This occurs when the body is unable to cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature. Heat stress can cause heat exhaustion and lead to heat stroke if the person is unable to cool down.

Measures to control the temperature of clinical environments and enable staff to make behavioural adaptations to stay cool and well hydrated should be made. Staff may require more frequent breaks and the frequency of PPE changes may increase, with a resulting increase in demand. Please refer to the alert via this link:

<https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103156>

A factsheet is available here:

<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/6/16/Supplementary-advice-sheet-PPE-and-risk-of-heat-stress.pdf>

## **Hot weather and heatwave planning**

We entered the Health and Heatwave Alert time of year on 1 June. This extends to 15 September. More information will be circulated in the very near future to support any review you might undertake on your business continuity plans and maintain

general awareness. Met Office and Heat Health alerts are circulated to services, partners and contracted provision when they reach Level 2 and beyond.

A heatwave occurs when temperatures remain high, for a given area, day after day. For the purposes of health and social care planning, a heatwave is declared when the maximum forecast temperature is above a trigger level. For the East Midlands (including Leicestershire) this temperature is 30 degrees C in the daytime, or 15 degrees C at night-time.

Our planning needs to reflect good practice recommendations made in the Heatwave Plan for England <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england> and current COVID-19 risks and necessary adaptations. COVID-19 amplifies the risks of hot weather; the guidance provided is to keep everyone safe.

All local authorities, NHS commissioners and their partner organisations, including health and social care providers, should consider the Heatwave Plan for England and satisfy themselves that the suggested actions and the heatwave alert service are understood; further that the actions set out in Page 22 of the Heatwave Plan for England are implemented alongside the following:

- Review who may be at high risk, noting that more residents of care homes and people receiving domiciliary care may be at risk from heat due to COVID-19 ill-health and social isolation due to COVID-19.
- Review your usual plans for surge capacity in hot weather considering possible COVID-19 related staff absence and to ensure staff welfare.
- Communicate alerts to staff and ensure they know what to do when the weather gets hot – use the [PHE COVID-19 'Beat the Heat' leaflet](#) , [checklist for Care Homes](#) and [Beat the Heat – Keep cool at home checklist](#). Other useful links are provided at the end of this article.

Further advice sheets will be circulated in the very near future to help raise awareness – these should be read in conjunction to the COVID-19 advice sheet.

Fans should only be used in single rooms for residents who do not have COVID-19 and have not been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case. Air should not be directed at their face or directed towards doors or openings that lead to other indoor spaces. Fans are best used in a room which also has good ventilation.

Other useful links:

- [Advice for Health and Social Care Staff: Supporting Vulnerable People Before and During A Heatwave](#)
- [Advice for Care Home Managers And Staff: Supporting Vulnerable People Before and During A Heatwave](#)
- [NHS Choices Heatwave: Be Prepared](#)

- [Met Office Heat Health Watch](#)
- [Met Office Severe Weather](#)
- Met Office <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/temperature/heatwave>
- Met Office weather forecasts [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)
- People with respiratory problems can also be affected during a heat wave, particularly when air quality is undermined. The DEFRA Daily Air Quality Information website <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/> contains information on both air pollution and PHE's real-time UV measurement data <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/uv-index-graphs>
- The AA has some good advice on driving in hot weather at the following link:  
[http://www.theaa.com/motoring\\_advice/seasonal/summer\\_advice.html](http://www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/seasonal/summer_advice.html)

## **Infection Control and Testing Fund (ICTF)**

### *May expenditure*

All providers are now asked to report ICTF expenditure for May 2021 - please use this link to the online form to report, by Monday 21 June, all eligible expenditure for the period 1 May to 31 May 2021:

<https://surveys.leics.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162029249296>

### *Discretionary funds*

Community providers and care homes registered in Leicestershire can now make grant applications for support from the ICTF discretionary fund via this link:

<https://surveys.leics.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=160795259818>

The ICTF grant conditions are set out on the DHSC website and can be seen at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-infection-control-and-testing-fund/annex-c-grant-conditions>

## **Infection Control Fund, Workforce Capacity Fund and Rapid Testing Fund**

We are in the latter stages of finalising both funds and reconciling a small number of provider queries. If you have a query regarding either of these funds please contact Dave Pruden with details before Friday 25 June. Unfortunately we cannot assist with any queries after that date.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Dave Pruden at [dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk](mailto: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>*