



Information for adult social care providers

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Bulletin 91 – 3 June 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Here is the latest COVID-19 update for adult social care providers in Leicestershire, starting with a heartfelt thank you to the workforce from DHSC, which we sincerely echo.

Thank you letter to adult social care workers from DHSC

Helen Whately, Matt Hancock, Deborah Sturdy and Lyn Romeo have issued a letter to all providers of adult social care recognising the incredible efforts of your teams during the pandemic.

Please share it with your workers:

https://mcusercontent.com/83b2aa68490f97e9418043993/files/11b96a4b-ce8e-15a4-7233-36c442d482ed/FINAL_COPY_ASC_Thank_You_Letter_003.pdf

Consultation outcome: stopping the movement of staff between care settings

The government's consultation on stopping movement of staff between care settings, which ran in November 2020, received more than 1,300 responses nationally.

The result of this consultation has now been published and can be accessed via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/stopping-movement-of-staff-between-care-settings/outcome/stopping-movement-of-staff-between-care-settings-response-to-consultation>

The government has decided not to progress with amending regulations to require care home providers to stop staff movement. However, restricting staff movement between care settings remains essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in care homes. [Updated guidance on restricting staff movement](#) between care homes and other care settings has been published which states that routine staff movement should not take place.

In limited exceptional circumstances where staff movement is necessary to ensure the delivery of safe care, the guidance provides examples of how to mitigate the risks of this with frequent testing.

Double bagging linen – walk-through video

Leicestershire County Council's Public Health teams have been supporting providers and their care staff in managing COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes.

There are currently no outbreaks in Leicestershire care homes, and thank you for your ongoing vigilance that has led to this position. The Council's IPC Advisors are now making appointments to visit homes where outbreaks have occurred to determine whether further IPC advice and support would be beneficial.

As part of these visits the team have identified that care staff often double-bag infected linen from an isolation bedroom incorrectly. In response to this, the team have developed a video that demonstrates the correct process to be followed: <https://youtu.be/mJxKlhPdNO0>. The process is 'future proofed' as it applies in all situations where source isolation precautions are required regardless of the 'causative organism'.

To keep the video short, it does not cover donning and doffing of PPE, nor other elements of cleaning regimes, the key points of which are as follows:

- The cleaning schedules for the home should advise that as part of routine cleaning (where there is no outbreak) all rooms in the home should be cleaned once a day using their routine detergent
- In an outbreak situation (such as Norovirus or COVID-19), cleaning schedules should advise staff that cleaning should be increased to twice daily with all frequently touched surfaces cleaned throughout the day
- The cleaning schedules (whether the home has an outbreak or not) should detail the product to be used as part of routine cleaning and those to be used in an outbreak situation i.e. a chlorine based product
- Source isolation bedrooms should be included in the increased cleaning frequency requirements

Finance update

Infection Control and Testing Fund (ICTF)

This fund supports providers with COVID-19 related expenditure between 1 April to 30 June 2021 and payments will be calculated as follows:

- For community providers - £100 per client, based on a tracker snapshot specified by the DHSC
- For care homes - £300 per bed, based on the CQC listing specified by the DHSC

This money arrived in providers' bank accounts on Friday 28 May.

There will be an opportunity to bid for funds from the discretionary parts of the grant in June and we will require providers to complete an expenditure return for May also in June. More information on both of those will follow.

Infection Control Fund – Round 2 (ICF2)

Thanks to the vast majority of providers that have submitted monthly returns. Of those, nearly all have been paid in full - in other words, that we have made payments that match the total expenditure reported. For those reporting expenditure that is less than the payments made, that underspend has been deducted from the ICTF payment. Those few providers with an ICF2 underspend greater than the ICTF payment will not receive a payment and will be invoiced for the balance.

The £6.1m of ICF2 was fully deployed but the community allocation of £1.4m was not fully spent - total community expenditure was about £1.0m. The care home allocation of £3.4m was not sufficient to meet the total cost of £5.2m reported. However, some £5m (95% of the costs reported) was paid to care homes by allocating from the discretionary fund and the community allocation that was not utilised.

Rapid Testing Fund

With hardly any lateral flow testing being undertaken in the community during the funding period, this fund was used by care homes. Of all those that submitted monthly returns, nearly all have been paid in full. However, of the £1.6m fund, £1.2m was spent, so the balance will be returned to the DHSC.

We are working with some providers to resolve queries; if you have any questions, please contact Dave Pruden at dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk.

Vaccines webinar recording

The DHSC Adult Social Care Vaccine Policy Team held a webinar on 21 May, featuring the Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment Nadhim Zahawi, Professor Jonathan Van Tam, and Dr Nikita Kanani who answered questions on the vaccine. The recording of the webinar can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=ot5Oj6r9zvQ>

Please promote it to staff who have not yet received their first dose of the vaccine.

Availability of vaccines for adult social care staff

We have received feedback from a few providers that they would like a reminder about how their staff can access their first COVID-19 vaccination. Booking details can be found at <https://www.leicesterccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/coronavirus-vaccine/>.

As we reported in bulletin 90, walk-in clinics for people who have not yet received their 'dose one' COVID-19 vaccination are currently running for defined postcodes in Leicester City, which can also be viewed at the link above. Walk-in clinics may also be run in priority areas of the County in future weeks, and we will announce them via these bulletins. It is likely that walk-in clinics will be established in Loughborough next week, and if this could be relevant to your workers, please review the link above occasionally to see the latest information.

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>