



Information

for adult social care providers

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& OTHERS**



Bulletin 101 – 10 August 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below a few COVID-19 matters for your attention, including a summary of the mandatory vaccination guidance for care homes.

Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for workers in care homes

As advised in bulletin 100, guidance for care home mandatory COVID-19 vaccination was released on 4 August 2021 and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccination-of-people-working-or-deployed-in-care-homes-operational-guidance>. A summary follows – for the detail please see the full guidance.

From 11 November 2021, anyone working or volunteering in a CQC registered care home (which provides accommodation together with nursing or personal care) will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless exempt. This guidance also applies to all professionals and tradespeople who enter these settings.

The regulations require that all CQC-registered service providers (or registered managers) must ensure that anyone entering has been vaccinated with the complete course of an authorised vaccine, unless:

- They are a resident at the care home. New admissions and their accompanying friend or relative will not require proof of vaccination either
- They are visiting a resident (including unpaid carers or essential care givers). This also includes visiting a resident at the end of life, and providing comfort or support in relation to a resident's bereavement following the death of a relative or friend
- They are clinically exempt for medical reasons
- Urgent maintenance assistance is required
- The person is a member of the emergency services in execution of their duties
- The person is under 18

Proof of vaccination will be required for all others, including:

- Students
- Volunteers

- Prospective residents and relatives visiting care homes
- Staff travelling from non-care settings (such as trainers) if they enter the care home
- Job interviewees (if the interview takes place within the care home)
- Postal, courier or other deliveries and collections if they enter the inside of the care home

The registered person (or those acting on behalf of the registered person) at the care home needs to satisfy themselves of the identity of the person entering the care home and their proof of vaccination, which can include:

- The NHS App
- NHS website
- NHS COVID Pass letter

In order to meet this requirement, care home staff must get their first vaccination by 16 September to allow 8 weeks before the second dose. Vaccinations can be booked online through the [National Booking Service](#) or by ringing 119. There are also walk-in centres across the county that do not require booking in advance: nhs.uk/grab-a-jab. Please also see the article later in this bulletin.



Infection prevention and control measures should continue to be followed, including the use of PPE. However, these measures are not a substitution for the vaccination requirement.

For those exempt from vaccination, a risk assessment should be undertaken to reduce the risk of transmission, which may include a change in duties where appropriate.

The registered person should keep a record of the vaccination status or exemption of staff members, and the date this was last checked, as well as the status of those entering the care home and the date this was last checked. There is no reason to record the reason for exemption where this applies; just whether the individual is exempt or not. The evidence is only required to be shown on the first occasion they enter, and the registered person should record their status on the care home's local system (IT or paper), to include the date and time the individual proved their status. Subsequent checks can be carried out via these records. Care home managers can request evidence more often, but this is not a requirement.

If staff are unable to show proof of vaccination status, the manager should explore all options available, which may include redeployment to a role where vaccination is not required, but may also result in dismissal. Care homes should have in place contingency plans which should cover staff shortfalls. If the registered provider has concerns that staffing levels affect their ability to operate the service safely, they are required to notify CQC under Regulation 18 (2) (g) of the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009.

Mandatory vaccination – webinar for care home managers

On 17 August, 12.30-13.30, the Department of Health and Social Care will be holding a webinar for care home managers and providers, to provide information and answer questions on the mandatory vaccination requirement. Please register at [Guidance for COVID-19 vaccination of people working/deployed in care homes Tickets, Tue 17 Aug 2021 at 12:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics

Details of the latest drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics are published on the [local NHS website](#) – dates and venues are regularly added.

There are two county drop-in vaccination clinics being advertised this week:

- Loughborough Hospital, 8.00-20.00 Wednesday 11, Thursday 12, Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 August (Pfizer)
- Melton Sports Village, 12.00-18.00, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 August (Pfizer)

Self-isolation from 16 August 2021

The government has indicated that the rules on self-isolation for close contacts may change on 16 August as more people become vaccinated. For the time being and until advised otherwise, contacts of someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 must follow the current guidance.

The local process for requesting exemption from isolation for an identified worker can be found in bulletin 100 at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/8/5/Information-for-adult-social-care-providers-Issue-100.pdf>

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>