



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Bulletin 102 – 19 August 2021

Dear Colleague,

Please find information below on several COVID-19 related matters.

Thank you for helping to protect the people you care for

8,850 care home and community adult social care staff in Leicestershire have had their first COVID-19 vaccination, with over 7,750 of those now fully vaccinated.

Thank you to those who have had their vaccinations – this will make a big difference to protecting those most at risk in Leicestershire’s care homes and community settings, and minimising the chance of you and other staff becoming seriously ill from the virus.

As you know, new government regulations requiring staff in care homes to have two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, unless they are medically exempt, come into effect on Thursday 11 November. Just a reminder that to ensure that your workers are fully vaccinated by this date, they need to have had their first jab by Thursday 16 September to allow the minimum eight-week gap between doses.

For those who have not had their first or second vaccination yet there are drop-in clinics around the county this week, including at Boots Fosse Park and Loughborough Hospital. Find out more and book a jab [here](#).

Mandatory vaccination – template communication for care home contractors or visiting professionals

As you know, the new mandatory vaccination requirement not only applies to care home staff, but also to those who enter the home to undertake work.

Care home managers will be taking steps to notify contractors or professional visitors to their home of the new requirement. To assist you, we have created template wording which you can use or adapt for communication with the relevant organisations. You can access it here:

<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/8/19/Vaccination-for-care-home-contractors-template.docx>

If a visiting organisation cannot provide you with reassurance in advance that it will only deploy staff to your home who have been fully vaccinated, you will wish to

consider ahead of time how you can source the service from an organisation who is able to send fully vaccinated workers.

Support to care homes from GPs and PCNs for mandatory vaccinations

Local GPs and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are keen to help care home managers build vaccine confidence amongst their workers.

Please encourage your staff who have questions or concerns about the vaccine to contact their own GP practice for a one-to-one conversation.

GP practices and PCNs will be contacting their local care homes to provide information, advice and guidance on the vaccine.

Care home vaccination status questionnaire

Care homes will have received a questionnaire about vaccination status from Linda Styles to assist in planning and support for mandatory vaccination. Thank you for those who have completed it. If you haven't yet, please do so and return it to the enquiry line at enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk by close of business on Tuesday 24 August.

Change in guidance regarding isolation for close contacts of positive cases

From 16 August, fully vaccinated staff members who are notified that they are a contact of a COVID-19 case are not required to self-isolate. Fully vaccinated means that staff have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since they received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

They should:

1. Notify their line manager or employer immediately (if required to work in the 10 days following their last known contact with a COVID-19 case).
2. Immediately arrange a PCR test, and await the results of this before returning to work.
3. Undertake daily LFD antigen tests every day for the 10 days following their last known contact with a COVID-19 case. This applies on non-working days as well.
4. This should be done before the start of a shift and must return a negative result.
5. Comply with all relevant infection control precautions, and PPE should be worn properly throughout the day.
6. A risk assessment will be required if the staff member works with residents who are highly vulnerable to COVID-19, and consideration given to redeployment during their 10-day isolation period.

If a staff member has had a COVID-19 infection in the past 90 days, they should not have a PCR test and should only undertake daily LFD antigen tests.

If staff develop symptoms of COVID 19 at any stage, they should:

- [Follow stay at home guidance](#)
- [Book a PCR test](#)
- Not attend work whilst awaiting PCR test results. If at work when symptoms start, they should inform their line manager and return home as soon as possible.

If an unvaccinated (or partially vaccinated) staff member is identified as a contact of a COVID-19 case, by either NHS Test and Trace or their workplace, they must self-isolate.

The following are exempt:

- Staff under 18
- Staff exempt from vaccination, including those medically exempt or those part of a clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine.

In these two circumstances, staff should not attend work, or should be redeployed for their isolation period. If they are to be redeployed, they should follow steps 1-4 above (provided they continue not to have symptoms).

It is recommended that the risk assessment should consider:

- Vaccination status
- Ability to use appropriate PPE in a work situation
- Whether close contact was a household contact or in very close contact (kissing, hugging etc) with the positive case
- Whether the close contact could be effectively re-deployed elsewhere in the workplace away from clinically extremely vulnerable people.

Additional mitigations (if the contact is returning to work) should include:

- Staggered lunch breaks
- Mask-wearing
- Working with less vulnerable people

If you need further advice or guidance please contact the Leicestershire Health Protection Team:

Email: healthprotection@leics.gov.uk

Phone: 0116 305 0740

Further details can be found here: [Management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings](#)

A range of guidance has been updated to reflect the 16 August guidance change, including but not limited to:

- [Visiting arrangements in care homes](#)
- [How to work safely in care homes](#)
- [Admission and care of people in care homes](#)
- [Arrangements for visiting out of the care home](#)
- [How to work safely in domiciliary care](#)
- [Supported living services during coronavirus](#)

PPE - 'how to work safely in domiciliary care' guidance

Updated DHSC guidance on home care now includes a paragraph on what PPE to use when supporting an individual or client on visits out: [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\): resource for care workers delivering domiciliary care during sustained COVID-19 transmission in England](#).

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>