

Information for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
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YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Bulletin 107 – 15 September 2021

Dear Colleague,

One day remaining for care home worker first COVID-19 vaccine doses

There is one full day left for care home staff to receive their first Covid-19 vaccination in order to be fully vaccinated by 11 November, when new government legislation comes into force. Staff must have had their first dose by the end of Thursday 16 September.

Staff can still receive their vaccination by attending walk-in centres, or by booking an appointment. Appointments are available in 12 local pharmacies, across Leicester and Leicestershire hospitals and at community centres.

Walk-in centres tomorrow, Thursday 16 September, include:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>
Peepul Centre, Orchardson Ave, Belgrave, Leicester LE4 6DP	12.15-19.15	Moderna
Loughborough Hospital, Hospital Way, Loughborough, LE11 5JY	12.15-19.15	Pfizer
St Hilda's Vaccination Centre, East Goscote Primary LE7 3XR	9.30-17.30	Pfizer
Boots, Unit 2, Fosse Park Shopping Centre, Leicester, LE19 1HJ	10.30-13.30 and 15.30-17.45	Not stated
Merridale Medical Centre, 5 Fullhurst Ave, Leicester, LE3 1BL	10.00-18.00	Pfizer

The Get Vaxxed website contains venue details and availability, as well as guidance on how to book: <https://bit.ly/GetVaxxedLLR>.

Staff can also call 119 to book an appointment, or the local call centre on 0116 497 5700 between 8am and 8pm prior to the dose 1 deadline.

Vaccination support to people who have needle phobia

If you would like to have the Covid-19 vaccine but you have a fear of needles, the local NHS will support you to get vaccinated. All our vaccination services are experienced in vaccinating people just like you.

Let a member of staff know that you are nervous as soon as you arrive for your vaccination so they can arrange for you to receive your vaccination in the best way for you. This could include:

- Getting you seen more quickly so you don't need to wait
- Arranging for you to speak to a clinical member of staff to help put you at ease.
- Vaccinating you in an area, away from other people, where you can lie down if it makes you more comfortable.
- Having an additional member of staff to sit with you while you are being vaccinated to distract you from the injection or help to keep you calm.

Medical exemption from vaccination

As described in [bulletin 105](#), there are very few individuals who cannot receive the Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

We have now received information on temporary medical exemption for COVID-19 vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes.

On a temporary basis, from today (Wednesday 15 September), people working or volunteering in care homes who have a medical reason why they are unable to have a COVID-19 vaccine will be able to self-certify that they meet the medical exemption criteria. The associated letter from DHSC, and forms needed for someone to self-certify as exempt are available [here](#).

Care home workers who are exempt will need to sign the form and give it to their employer as proof of their temporary exemption status. The temporary self-certification process has been introduced for a short period prior to the launch of the new NHS COVID Pass system which will go live imminently.

Once the NHS COVID Pass system is launched, care home workers will need to apply for a formal medical exemption through that process. The temporary self-certification will expire 12 weeks after the NHS COVID Pass system is launched.

Individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccination abroad can also self-certify as medically exempt. This is because it is not currently clinically appropriate for them to be vaccinated in the UK if they have already received a partial or full course of vaccination overseas.

The national [operational guidance](#) will be updated in the coming days to reflect the temporary exemption system.

Asking your employee or worker to work somewhere other than where they're self-isolating

It is a legal requirement to self-isolate if you are told to by NHS Test and Trace. You could be fined if you do not self-isolate. As you know, self-isolation is when you do not leave your home because you have or might have coronavirus (COVID-19). This helps stop the virus spreading to other people.

You must self-isolate straight away if you've tested positive for COVID-19. This applies to all age groups, regardless of vaccination status.

You should also self-isolate immediately and [get a PCR Test](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

It's an offence for an employer to knowingly allow a person who is required to self-isolate to work anywhere other than where they are self-isolating (normally their home). This applies only when they're required to self-isolate following a positive test, contacted by NHS Test and Trace or their local authority, or where they are required to quarantine after returning from abroad.

If an employer is reasonably believed to be in breach of this requirement, they may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). The fine is:

- £1,000 for a first FPN
- £2,000 for a second FPN
- £4,000 for a third FPN
- £10,000 for a fourth and subsequent FPNs

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>