



# Information for adult social care providers

## Covid-19 and Flu

### Bulletin 124 – 21 January 2022

Dear Colleagues,

#### **Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for the wider workforce**

As you know, individuals undertaking CQC regulated activities in England must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no later than 1 April 2022, and need to have had their first vaccination by 3 February 2022.

The operational guidance was issued yesterday (20 January) and is available [here](#). We will interpret the key points of it for you in next week's bulletin.

A document is being prepared summarising all of the resources available for encouraging take up within your workforce and will be issued next week.

#### **Care home vaccinations via community pharmacies**

If you are a care home provider which has arranged COVID-19 vaccinations via a community pharmacy, we would be grateful if you could drop a line to Elizabeth Armstrong at [elizabeth.armstrong11@nhs.net](mailto:elizabeth.armstrong11@nhs.net) so that GPs know that vaccinations have taken place, and can coordinate their activity effectively.

#### **Reminder of specialist COVID-19 vaccination clinics for people with a learning disability and/or autism**

Further specialist COVID-19 vaccination clinics for people with learning disabilities and/or autism have been scheduled to enable people to get their boosters and vaccines in a calm and friendly environment that meets their needs:

- Thursday 27 January: Loughborough Hospital
- Wednesday 23 February: the Peepul Centre
- Thursday 31 March: Loughborough Hospital

All clinics will run from 10am to 6pm and need to be booked in advance. The vaccine used will be Pfizer.

The sessions are open to anyone with a learning disability and/or autism in LLR, aged 12 or over, who is due for a first, second or booster COVID-19 vaccination.

They are designed for people who need a more supportive environment than an ordinary clinic can provide. The clinics will offer a calm atmosphere, longer appointment times and be staffed by vaccinators specialising in learning disability support and care.

To book, please use the following links. Please specify in the additional comments box if you need for us to make any specialist adaptations, such as needing a private or quiet space.

- [To book an appointment at either of the learning disability clinics at Loughborough Hospital, on Hospital Way, LE11 5JY](#)
- [To book an appointment at the learning disability clinic at the Peepul Centre, on Orchardson Avenue in Leicester, LE4 6DP](#)

More information about booster vaccines in an easy read format can be found [here](#).

[This video](#) from the Misfits Theatre company from Bristol, in partnership with NHS England, gives a message encouraging people with learning disabilities to get their COVID-19 booster vaccination.

### **Self-isolation for those with COVID-19 can end after 5 full days following 2 negative LFD tests**

The guidance relating to the duration of self-isolation has changed for some circumstances and is available [here](#).

The key points are:

- From Monday 17 January 2022, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 can end self-isolation after 5 full days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6 on an LFD.
- Individuals who are still positive on the LFD tests must stay in isolation until they have had 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days.
- Those who leave self-isolation on or after day 6 are strongly advised to wear face coverings and limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, work from home if they can do so and minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.
- The default self-isolation period continues to be 10 days, and you may only leave self-isolation early if you have taken two rapid lateral flow tests and do not have a temperature in line with guidance.

### **Outbreaks in care homes**

Outbreak restrictions will be in place for different lengths of time, depending on the characteristics of the outbreak and the results of outbreak testing.

If the first and second rounds of outbreak PCR testing do not detect any further cases in residents or staff, then outbreak control restrictions may be lifted following a risk assessment by the Health Protection Team. This may mean that outbreak measures may only be in place for about 7 days (depending on PCR turnaround times), if there is no evidence of further transmission within the care home. However, if either of these first two rounds of testing detect any further positive results, or if anyone tests positive within this window, the outbreak will continue.

For example, if the first round of outbreak testing picks up a single positive case, the outbreak will continue until 14 days have passed with no new cases, even if the second round of testing (on day 4-7) shows no further positive cases.

Outbreak recovery testing should be undertaken when there have been 14 days with no new cases. If no new cases are found after this recovery testing, outbreak restrictions can then be lifted.

An easy-to-reference guide has been produced which will be circulated with the bulletin next week.

### **Updates to the COVID-19 supported living guidance**

[COVID-19 supported living guidance](#) has been updated with information to support local plans and preparations to manage risk, and support people throughout the response to the pandemic. It includes guidance on safe systems of working, including limiting close contact, respiratory and hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning and how IPC measures, PPE and the use of testing apply in supported living settings.

### **Adult social care worker retention package**

We are enormously grateful for the tireless efforts of the adult social care workforce in keeping people safe and supported since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

Before Christmas we announced a rewards package for adult social care workers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) in recognition of their efforts over a challenging winter to come.

#### *Winter loyalty bonus*

Face-to-face support workers and ancillary staff of CQC registered providers will be entitled to a one-off payment in March 2022 where they have been employed continuously by their CQC registered provider employer between 13 December 2021 and 28 February 2022.

The value of the one-off payment is:

- £500 for an employee working 20 hours or more per week
- £250 for an employee working under 20 hours per week

### *Early payment of enhanced National Living Wage*

Each of the three local authorities is seeking to channel additional funds to identified providers from January which would enable them to pay enhanced National Living Wage rates earlier than the nationally mandated April 2022. So workers that are currently earning less than £9.50 per hour can be paid that rate for the period 1 January to 31 March 2022 and the council will refund the provider for the cost of that increase, including oncosts.

### *Registration for the package*

Registration is via a template which was issued to care homes and home care providers on Friday 21 January. It requests basic details of the number of staff that are expected to benefit from each aspect of the package. This will enable each council to allocate funding and plan the payments to providers, which will be made in time for the March pay run.

### **Other news: urgent falls response service for Leicestershire care homes**

From 15 January 2022, health and social care professionals (see full list below) have been able to refer patients to the LLR Urgent Falls Response Service at weekends. The service has been running Monday to Friday since the pilot launched in October. Weekend provision is Phase 2 of the pilot project, which will run until the end of May 2022.

This service continues to be for patients who are resident in the counties of Leicestershire or Rutland who have fallen on the floor and cannot get up, and who have no suspected serious injury. There will initially be one vehicle available at weekends, based centrally at Fosse House, Leicester (with plans to expand the offer to two vehicles). The vehicle is staffed with a clinician and a driver / health care assistant and equipped with lifting / patient handling equipment, along with medications commonly used in urgent care. On weekdays there are two vehicles in operation. The service is delivered by DHU Health Care.

### *Who can refer*

- EMAS
- 111/CNH
- Nursing and residential care home staff
- GPs / staff based within practices including practice nurses
- Health visitors
- Midwives
- Community nurses
- Adult social care workers
- Domiciliary care workers
- Community occupational therapists and physiotherapists
- Social prescribers
- Care navigators / care coordinators

### *How to refer*

Referrals will be accepted seven days a week between 0800 and 2000. To refer a patient please telephone LLR DHU HCP Line on 0300 323 0672. Please note that this is a new number from that previously advised. The number is not open to the public.

### *Referral criteria*

All patients residing within Leicestershire and Rutland who have fallen within a non-public residence and are unable to get up either independently or with assistance of bystanders.

### *Exclusion criteria*

The below list are examples of patients not appropriate for the service. Cases will be triaged on an individual basis and so this list is not exhaustive:

- Anyone in a public place
- No longer on the floor
- Patients located outside of Leicestershire County and Rutland (including Leicester City residents)
- Head injury and on anticoagulants
- Obvious bony injury
- Severe uncontrolled haemorrhage
- Witnessed loss of consciousness at any time pre or post fall
- Signs of CVA or seizures as a consequence of injury
- Fall from height above 2 metres

Please note: If it is clear from the Respect form or advanced care plan that the patient is not for admission then a referral may be made and our clinician will assess whether a visit is appropriate

In the absence of a Respect form or advanced care plan a health care professional / EMAS may refer if they believe a visit may be in the patient's best interest. Our clinician will assess whether a visit is appropriate.

### *What happens when a patient is referred?*

- A non-clinical member of staff will take demographic details and ask a number of questions
- A clinician will review the referral within 15 minutes to ensure the referral is safe and appropriate. Where necessary they will call the patient/referrer to clarify any information
- We aim to visit appropriate patients who have been referred post-triage within 2 hours. Once the clinician is satisfied that it is safe to do so, the team will assist the patient off the floor and carry out any further assessments as required

- If there are any underlying medical problems or any injuries these will be treated and managed as appropriate. The clinician will make any onward referrals as required
- If the service is at operational capacity and any delays in responding are likely to be detrimental to the patient's wellbeing, you will be informed of this position and options will be discussed as appropriate

We are regularly reviewing and evaluating the service to ensure that it strengthens an integrated and co-ordinated response tailored to individual needs, which will in turn prevent further falls, enable significant diversion from ED and signposting on to other services where appropriate.

For any queries or questions about the service, please contact the CCG service lead [alison.brooks17@nhs.net](mailto:alison.brooks17@nhs.net)

### **Other news: LLR staff mental health and wellbeing hub – outreach team offer**

The LLR Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub Outreach Team are here to support staff within the adult social care sector, by providing face to face or digital outreach sessions to help improve the access into health and wellbeing services.

Some of the support services offered include:

- Advice to staff of health and wellbeing initiatives across LLR.
- Signpost into Amica Counselling services should any staff member feel the need for confidential support away from their work environment.
- Online tools on a platform called Silver Cloud, which can be accessed by all staff, covering themes / modules around anxiety, stress, sleep and we can offer a further enhanced service where a member of Amica staff can offer email support on Silver Cloud
- Outreach clinics where staff can speak to a worker.
- Videos and programmes on resilience and mindfulness.

Please contact the team on [Salim.Khalifa@UHL-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:Salim.Khalifa@UHL-tr.nhs.uk) or [Leona.Knott@UHL-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:Leona.Knott@UHL-tr.nhs.uk)

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>