



## **Bulletin 125 – 28 January 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

### **Useful resources to aid conversations about COVID-19 vaccinations**

Vaccinations provide the best protection for us, our loved ones, and those that we support. As you are aware, from 11 November 2021 it became mandatory for anyone working or volunteering in a care home to be fully vaccinated. Two doses of the vaccination do not provide enough protection against COVID-19. A booster dose is vital.

On 1 April 2022, regulations come into force making it unlawful for an employer delivering CQC regulated activities to deploy an unvaccinated worker in a face-to-face role. Ahead of this deadline, the last date for unvaccinated workers to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination (unless exempt) is 3 February 2022. Current guidance requires eight weeks between the first and second vaccine dose. This allows workers to have received two doses of the vaccination ahead of April.

See the [set of resources](#) that we encourage you to use and share with colleagues who are hesitant about receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations. They include translated materials, a letter from faith leaders, COVID-19 in pregnancy, needle phobia, and having healthy conversations.

### **Vaccination as a Condition of Deployment 2 (VCOD2) – letter from DHSC**

Claire Armstrong, the DHSC Director of Adult Social Care Delivery has issued a letter to all local authorities which clarifies key information on the regulations relating to the extension of Vaccination as a Condition of Deployment (VCOD) to wider care settings and who the guidance applies to. [The letter is available here.](#)

### **VCOD2 – top tips for home care providers**

Leicestershire Homecare Alliance has produced a helpful '[Top Tips for Homecare Providers](#)' document which is in use across the region. In addition to this handy guide, please ensure that you seek your own HR and/or legal advice.

### **VCOD2 – national webinar**

A webinar on 2 February will focus on the implementation of vaccination as condition of deployment in wider social care settings. Speakers from the Department of Health and Social Care, ACAS and the Care Quality Commission will share details of the guidance and support available to help providers, managers and others meet their responsibilities.

The webinar will be hosted by Skills for Care and is aimed at providers, registered managers and other managers with responsibility for implementing vaccination as a condition of deployment.

Vaccination as a condition of deployment in wider social care settings: information and guidance for registered managers and providers, Wednesday 2 February 2022, 10:00–11:00. [Register for the webinar now.](#)

### Pop-up vaccination clinics

The following table shows the address, date and opening times of pop-up COVID-19 vaccination centres across the County. You do not need to book in advance to attend.

	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dates of pop up clinic</i>	<i>Opening times</i>	<i>Eligible persons</i>
Hinckley Leisure Centre	Argents Mead, Hinckley LE10 1BZ	28/01/2022	15:15 – 19:15	Friday 12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
MVU* County Location - Loughborough Market Place	NCP Loughborough Market Place, Loughborough, LE11 5BG	28/01/2022 29/01/2022 30/01/2022	09:00-16:00	Friday: 16+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster Sat/Sun:12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
King Power Stadium	King Power, Filbert Way, Leicester, LE2 7FL	28/01/2022 29/01/2022 30/01/2022	11:00 – 19:00	Friday: 16+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster Sat/Sun:12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
MVU* City Location - Victoria Park Car Park	Victoria Park Car Park, Granville Rd, Leicester, LE1 7RY	28/01/2022 29/01/2022 30/01/2022	09:00-16:00	Friday: 16+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster Sat/Sun:12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
MVU* County Location - Loughborough University Shirley Pearce Square	Shirley Pearce Square, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU	04/02/2022 05/02/2022 06/02/2022	09:00-16:00	Friday: 16+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster Sat/Sun:12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
Maxi Grosik Supermarket (Pfizer)	Blackbird Road, Leicester, LE4 0FW	04/02/2022	09.00-16.00	

\*Mobile Vaccination Unit

## **Changes in care home visiting**

From Monday 31 January, there will be no limit on the number of visitors allowed into care homes and self-isolation periods will be cut. Care homes only have to follow outbreak management rules for 14 rather than 28 days.

View the [information available at this time](#).

## **Changes in testing regimes**

There are changes to the testing guidance for home care staff that will be introduced following advice given by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) to ensure you and the people you care for remain protected from COVID-19, whilst simplifying the testing regime. Full guidance will be published next week; please see [this newsletter](#) for information available now and for details of forthcoming webinars.

## **COVID-19 booster fraud**

Criminals are sending text messages, emails and making phone calls, pretending to be from the NHS, to steal money, financial details and personal information relating to the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

The COVID-19 booster vaccine is free. The NHS will never ask for payment or any financial details relating to the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

[These resources](#) can be used when communicating with people to raise awareness of fraud, to encourage people to be alert and to guide people on how to book or manage a booster dose.

## **IPC training**

Training for care homes is available to remind staff of hand hygiene and donning / doffing techniques. The below MS Teams invite is for a demonstration of these techniques.

The sessions are every Tuesday and Thursday at 14:00-14:30 until Thursday 17 March.

Each session is the same demonstration, but many sessions are running to optimise care home staff attendance.

[Click here to join the meeting](#) or email Robert Pride at [robert.pride2@nhs.net](mailto:robert.pride2@nhs.net) to have an appointment with the accompanying information sent to you.

## **Managing outbreaks in care homes helpful guide**

A poster explaining how to manage outbreaks in care homes has been pulled together for care settings to refer to and use under the current guidance.

The poster includes defining an outbreak, what actions should be taken during an outbreak, what to do if a case is confirmed and links to useful resources and key contacts.

The ever-changing pace of guidance does mean that this information is subject to change and we are encouraging settings to continue checking for latest information online.

You can find the [Leicestershire January 2022 poster](#) on our website and individual copies are also being produced for Leicester City and Rutland care settings.

### **Worker retention package**

The deadline for worker retention package provider submissions has been extended from Friday 28 January to 18.00 on Friday 4 February 2022.

### **Other news: Care Professional of the Year Award ceremony**

The nominations are in...The judging is complete...The date is fast approaching for this year's Care Professional of the Year Award 2022. Have you got your free tickets yet?

This year's virtual awards will be held on 10 February 2022 at 18.30. After the massive success of last year's awards, we wanted to make sure the awards are accessible to more people than ever, so why not get all your staff and the people you support celebrating and watching together.

[Book your tickets here.](#)

Yours sincerely

Jon Wilson

Director of Adults and Communities

Mike Sandys

Director of Public Health

See the archive of [all previous COVID-19 provider bulletins](#) released since March 2020.