



Information for adult social care providers

Covid-19 and Flu

Bulletin 129 – 17 February 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Regulations making vaccines a condition of deployment (VCOD) for social care staff likely to be revoked

As [announced by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on 31 January 2022](#), and as reported in our last bulletin, the government has stated that its intention is to [revoke the regulations making vaccines a condition of deployment for health and social care staff](#), subject to parliamentary process.

The government has also published a [written ministerial statement including what registered persons should do](#) regarding the 3 February deadline for first doses.

We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Booster vaccinations for agency staff in adult social care

This winter, the government has increased efforts to drive COVID-19 booster uptake and we have seen a positive increase. However, less than one in five of all agency staff recorded on the capacity tracker have received their booster. While we are aware that not everyone will be eligible for a booster due to medical exemption or it being too soon since having a second dose, the uptake rates for boosters among agency staff remain concerning.

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) data illustrates that around 6 months after receiving a second dose of any COVID-19 vaccine, protection against death from Omicron was approximately 60% in those aged 50 and over. However, this increases to around 95% protection 2 weeks after receiving a booster vaccine dose.

Vaccination remains the best line of defence against COVID-19. Vaccines have helped defend against COVID-19 and have saved countless lives. They have weakened the link between infection, hospitalisation, and deaths, especially for those living or working in care homes.

Therefore, it is essential that every agency staff member working in social care settings receive their COVID-19 booster as soon as eligible to protect themselves and improve protection against coronavirus for those in our care.

COVID-19 booster vaccinations can be booked, as well as doses one and two, through the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119 free of charge.

Boosters can be booked two months after your second dose, so please arrange an appointment as soon as you are eligible.

Alternatively, [visit a walk-in vaccination site](#) to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and agency workers can access priority queuing by presenting [this letter](#) and proof of employment.

Read the [booster vaccinations for agency staff](#) information from the Adult Social Care Delivery Directorate in full.

Pop-up vaccination clinics

Further pop-up vaccination clinics have been confirmed for the next few days.

Sometimes, opening times may change or clinics are stood down, so please check [the website](#) for the latest information.

Venue	Address	Date and time	Doses offered
Delivery Pharmacy Hinckley	Unit 3 Jacknell Road, Hinckley. LE10 3BS	17/02/2022 – 18/02/2022 9am – 5.30pm	Age 18+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
Groby Road Medical Centre	9 Groby Road, Leicester. LE3 9ED	17/02/2022 10am – 4pm	Age 16+: 1 st , 2 nd or booster dose.
Oakwood Pharmacy	Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough. LE12 8RZ	17/02/2022 – 18/02/2022 9am – 6pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd or booster dose.
		19/02/2022 9am – 1pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd or booster dose.
Countesthorpe Chemist	16 Central Street, Countesthorpe, Leicester. LE8 5QJ	17/02/2022 – 18/02/2022 9am - 6pm	Age 16+: 1 st , 2 nd or booster dose.
		19/02/2022 9am – 12pm	Age 16+: 1 st , 2 nd or booster dose.
Leicester Royal Infirmary	Infirmary Square, Leicester. LE1 5WW	18/02/2022 8.30am – 5.30pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
		20/02/2022 8.30am – 5.30pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.

Venue	Address	Date and time	Doses offered
Charnwood Borough Council	Southfield Road, Loughborough. LE11 2TN	18/02/2022 9am – 5pm	Age 16+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
		19/02/2022 9.30am - 4.30pm	Age 16+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
Lidl Coalville	Thornborough Road, Coalville. LE67 3TH	18/02/2022 – 20/02/2022 9am – 4pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
Loughborough Hospital	Hospital Way, Loughborough. LE11 5JY	18/02/2022 3.15pm – 7.15pm	5 – 11 years clinically vulnerable: 1 st dose.
		19/02/2022 8.15am – 3.15pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
		20/02/2022 8.15am – 11.15am	5 – 11 years clinically vulnerable: 1 st dose.
Glenfield Hospital	Grobby Road, Leicester. LE3 9QP	19/02/2022 8.30am – 5.30pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
Coalville Hospital	Broom Leys Road, Coalville. LE67 4DE	19/02/2022 10am – 5pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
Field Palmer Hospital	Gilmorton Road, Lutterworth. LE17 4DZ	20/02/2022 2.30pm – 7.15pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.
Melton Sports Village	Burton Road, Melton Mowbray. LE13 1DR	20/02/2022 9am – 4pm	Age 12+: 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd or booster dose.

PPE portal

A replacement national PPE portal has been introduced to better serve eligible providers in accessing COVID-19 related PPE stock. All users will be receiving an invite over the next few months to migrate to the new system. You should have received email communications confirming timings for your migration.

Until you receive your invitation to migrate you can [continue using the current platform](#) to order your COVID-19 PPE.

If you have questions regarding the migration to the new portal, please contact the national portal customer services team on 0800 876 6802. They are available from 7.00 to 19.00, seven days a week.

Guidance updates

National COVID-19 related guidance is frequently changed and tweaked to reflect the latest position – you can stay up to date by requesting regular emails from the [government website](#).

Here are some important recent guidance updates:

- [Admission and care of people in care homes](#) – 14 February 2022
- [Management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings](#) – 14 February 2022
- [Supported living services during coronavirus](#) - 16 February 2022

Care home isolation guidance

A summary of updates to testing and isolation guidance for care homes follows.

'Fully vaccinated' refers to residents having their primary doses (one and two) and any eligible booster dose.

The booster dose was not previously included in the definition of 'fully vaccinated'.

Changes to self-isolation

The rules on self-isolation in a care home have now changed:

1. Confirmed positive case

This could be either a PCR test or a lateral flow test. If a lateral flow test is positive, a follow up PCR test is not usually required. If a resident receives a positive test:

- a. Isolate for ten days. This can end early if:
 - i. Two negative lateral flow tests are received on (or after) day 5 and day 6, 24 hours apart*
 - ii. Clinical improvement criteria should also be met:
 - clinical improvement with at least some respiratory recovery
 - absence of fever (less than 37.8°C) for 48 hours without the use of medication
 - no underlying severe immunosuppression

Those unable to test must isolate for the full 10 days. Residents who end their self-isolation period before 10 full days they should limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19 for the remainder of the ten days.

All residents who have a confirmed test (either lateral flow or PCR) that are able to test can end their isolation period in accordance with the guidelines above, regardless of their vaccination status.

*The day of symptom onset is day 0. If asymptomatic, the day the test was taken is day 0.

2. Symptomatic of COVID-19

- a. Perform a PCR test
- b. Isolate until PCR results returned. Isolation can only end if the test is negative. If positive, see point 1 above.

3. Identified contact of a confirmed case

Residents identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 should isolate for up to 10 days, but this could end early:

- i. vaccinated residents can end isolation if they receive 3 consecutive negative lateral flow tests on days 4, 5 and 6
- ii. unvaccinated residents can end their self-isolation if they receive 3 consecutive negative lateral flow tests taken on days 6, 7 and 8
- iii. any resident who is unable to test – regardless of their vaccination status – should self-isolate for 10 days

If any of these test results are positive, follow the guidance in point 1 above.

4. High risk exposures

If a resident has attended a high-risk setting (as determined by a risk assessment), they should self-isolate for up to 10 days. High-risk exposures include having been discharged from an unplanned overnight stay in hospital, or visiting a hospital experiencing nosocomial outbreaks.

- a. This could end after 6 or 8 days depending on vaccination status, if:
 - i. Vaccinated residents can begin daily rapid lateral flow testing from day 4, and must have 3 consecutive negative tests performed 24 hours
 - E.g. Day 4, day 5 and day 6.
 - ii. Unvaccinated residents can begin daily rapid lateral flow testing from day 6, and should receive 3 consecutive negative tests performed 24 hours apart.
 - E.g. Day 6, day 7 and day 8
 - iii. any resident who is unable to test following a high-risk exposure – regardless of their vaccination status – should self-isolate for 10 days

Please note - if any of these tests performed to end isolation early are positive, please follow the steps in point 1 above.

5. Low risk visiting

There is no need to isolate following a visit deemed low risk.

For planned hospital overnight stays of any length, residents should take a PCR test prior to discharge. If the result is negative, they do not need to self-isolate. If they test positive, they should go to a designated setting

6. Self-isolation for residents with flu

Residents who have confirmed or suspected flu should self-isolate until fully recovered and for at least 5 days after their symptoms started. Residents with other respiratory viral infections should isolate as per flu unless they are advised otherwise by their Health Protection Team.

Finance

Infection Control and Testing Fund – Round 3

Last week we issued two requests in relation to ICTF3, one relating to the discretionary fund and the other relating to expenditure reporting for December and January.

Expenditure reporting

Completion of this return is a condition of receipt of the funding for providers with services in Leicestershire.

- Care homes must report all eligible infection control, vaccination, and testing expenditure by month
- Community providers must report all eligible infection control and vaccination expenditure by month

Some providers may not yet be in receipt of ICTF3 funding because of outstanding queries from earlier funding rounds, but completion of the return is still required to ensure ICTF3 payments can be made when the queries are resolved. If you do not report, or do not comply with any of the grant conditions, you risk having to return payments made to your organisation.

View the [Infection Control and Testing Fund - Round 3 \(ICTF3\) online form](#).

Discretionary fund

The discretionary funding consists of three allocations:

- Infection prevention and control (IPC) funding
- Vaccines funding
- Testing funding

A provider who was not able to report ICTF3 or Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund costs from 21 October 2021 to 30 November 2021 should submit a discretionary fund application to claim those costs. Care homes and community providers who receive direct funding from ICTF3 may apply for support from the discretionary funds for infection control and testing costs that are not listed in the directly funded measures. A provider may submit one discretionary fund application for infection control, vaccination, and one for testing, up to a maximum of three. Some providers who did not submit expenditures from 21 October 2021 to 30 November 2021 can still request those costs as an additional request.

View the [discretionary fund application form](#) and go to [Bulletin 113](#) for further information.

The deadline for both returns is Monday 21 February 2022.

Only providers and care homes that regularly update the tracker, submit returns, and meet all the conditions of the Infection Control and Testing Fund - Round 3 (ICTF3) grant will receive payment. Please note, that by accepting payments from this fund your organisation accepts the grant conditions, which can be found in the [Infection Control and Testing Fund - Round 3](#). If you do not report, or do not comply with any of the grant conditions, you risk having to return payments made to your organisation.

Residential care fee review

Work has begun to review the local care home market. It includes a detailed analysis of the costs of providing care locally, so that the council has a clear evidence base when developing a fee rate structure for future service procurement.

Care Analytics has been commissioned to undertake a survey of local care homes and to analyse the results. They have conducted many of these analyses and regularly collate and process confidential data in their work with both councils and care providers.

We urge you to take part in the survey. It is your opportunity to influence the commissioning process and the prices paid by the council for care home placements.

We recognise that this comes at a difficult time with significant reporting requirements this month, however, the more care homes that respond to the survey, the better the council will be able to develop a sustainable fee rate structure. It is in everyone's interests that we get a high level of response from all parts of the residential and nursing market in Leicestershire.

Download the [Care Analytics care home survey](#) for Leicestershire. Please note, the deadline for completing the survey is Monday 28 February 2022. Email completed surveys to contact@careanalytics.co.uk.

If you have any question about the fee review or ICTF3, please email dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk.

OTHER NEWS

East Midlands Care Home Awards

Entries are open for the East Midlands Care Home Awards so if you know a care home or carer who always goes that extra mile, you can nominate them for an award.

The awards are part of the 'Connecting Together' webinars, which are held each quarter and bring together the East Midland community of care homes to celebrate care.

The theme for the first award is 'Improved team working', and an example of this could be a care home that has improved safety by working together, holding the same beliefs and values.

Nominations can be made from residents, care home managers and staff, clinical commissioning groups, local authorities, primary care networks, and anyone who works with the care home sector, such as district nurses and GPs. Care homes can nominate another care home.

Nominations can be made in writing or by submitting a series of photos or short video. [The nomination form can be downloaded here.](#)

The deadline for entries is Friday 4 March at 12pm and the winner will be announced at the 'How we care' webinar on Wednesday 6 April ([register for the event](#)).

Yours sincerely

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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>