



Information for adult social care providers

Covid-19 and Flu

Bulletin 130 – 25 February 2022

Dear Colleagues,

‘Living with COVID-19’: national plan

Following an announcement on Monday, the Government’s objective is to enable the country to manage COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses. The health and social care sectors have been significantly impacted, and the professionalism, skill and experience of staff continues to be recognised.

Read the [Government’s plan for living with COVID-19](#).

From 24 February, the Government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test, however they do advise that those who test positive should continue to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Due to the higher risk nature of health and social care settings, the isolation advice for staff members working in these settings has not changed.

Care home residents, and those in receipt of adult social care at home and other care settings, are often amongst the most vulnerable in society to COVID-19. The Government will continue to support the adult social care sector with the following protections:

- Supporting and encouraging the take-up of vaccines amongst care recipients and staff, including any further doses that may be recommended by JCVI for COVID-19 and other infections
- Guidance on precautions for visitors and workers in adult social care
- Providing access to free PPE to the end of March 2023 or until the UK IPC guidance on PPE usage for COVID-19 is amended or superseded (whichever is sooner).

As a part of living sustainably with COVID-19, by 1 April the Government will publish updated IPC guidance. This will replace current COVID-19 IPC guidance for care homes, home care and other adult social care services. The Government will

continue to work with local authorities and care providers to respond to outbreaks in care settings and manage local workforce pressures.

From 1 April 2022, universal free testing will stop, however it is expected that free symptomatic testing will remain available to social care staff.

[Updated guidance for staff adult social care settings](#) was published yesterday (24 February 2022).

Please continue with current protective measures that you have in place: testing as per the guidance, including enhanced testing during an outbreak. If a staff member tests positive, they should stay at home until they receive two negative lateral flow tests, 24 hours apart, from day 5.

System pressures

There is currently high demand on health and social care services across LLR. Thank you for your continued dedication to ensuring that people receive a care and support package in their own home or begin a care home placement in a timely way, which in turn allows the wider health and social care system to operate safely and effectively.

We thank home care businesses for doing everything that you can to accommodate requests for packages of support, including prompt responses to requests for care, early package start dates, and creative recruitment campaigns to build workforce capacity for future requests.

Care workers explain why they chose to have their COVID-19 booster vaccine

See and hear care workers across the country explain why they chose to get their COVID-19 booster vaccine in [this short video](#).

A booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine improves the protection you have from your first two doses. It also helps give you longer-term protection against serious illness from COVID-19.

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 before you travel.

Location	Address	Dates running (Friday – Sunday unless specified)	Time	Doses offered
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Lidl, Fosse Road	217 Fosse Road North, Leicester, LE3 5EZ	25/02/2022 – 27/02/2022	09:00-17:00	Friday: 16+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster Sat/Sun:12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
Lidl, Loughborough	Station Avenue, Loughborough, LE11 5HL	25/02/2022 – 27/02/2022	09:00-17:00	Friday: 16+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster Sat/Sun:12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster

IPC newsletters

Here are links to newsletters containing the latest advice for care homes and home care on IPC:

- [IPC bulletin for care homes](#)
- [IPC bulletin for staff providing home care](#)

Last chance to order free PPE locally

As outlined in [bulletin 127](#), the government has confirmed that from 1 April 2022 the Local Resilience Forum will no longer be required to provide free PPE to services across Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland.

Stock is still available to providers – all orders must be placed by the end of day on Monday 14 March to allow orders to be processed. This offer will not affect your supply from the national portal.

Currently items in stock available to order include:

- Protective gloves
- Aprons
- Type IIR masks
- Hand sanitiser
- Visors
- Waste sacks
- Non-sterile gowns
- Coveralls
- Tissues
- FFP3 masks

Order now for collection by [filling in the online form](#) (green 'order PPE now' button towards the bottom of the web page) indicating the quantities of the equipment you would like to request on a one-off basis. Please ignore the month's supply note.

If you are unable to collect, please email us at A&Chub-emergency&bcplanning@leics.gov.uk, explaining why you cannot collect. Delivery will only be in exceptional circumstances.

Please contact LRF.PPESupport@leics.gov.uk with any queries.

Residential care fee review – extended deadline

In [bulletin 129](#) we reported that a review of the local care home market had begun. We explained the background to this work, the role of Care Analytics, and asked for your help in completing a simple survey to inform their work to estimate the cost of care in Leicestershire. We have extended the deadline to Monday 8 March following feedback from EMCARE.

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. The more care homes that respond to the survey, the better the council will be able to develop a sustainable fee rate structure.

Download the [Care Analytics care home survey](#) for Leicestershire. Please email completed surveys to contact@careanalytics.co.uk.

OTHER NEWS

Leicestershire County Council residential forum

Following a discussion with providers on the November 2021 conference call, every quarter the COVID-19 focussed provider call will be combined with a strategic virtual forum. This will enable providers to make more effective use of their time than attending separate sessions.

In March, June, September, and December 2022 there will be an enhanced meeting lasting for 90 minutes, and covering strategic matters relating to care homes. Agenda items can be added by emailing the enquiry line on enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk.

You can find a schedule for and dial in details for all care home provider calls [here](#). Please note that the meeting scheduled for Monday 7 March will therefore begin at the earlier time of 10.30 (with the usual end at noon).

Launch of Providing Care website webinar, 9 March

You are invited to the launch of a very useful new website for care home providers in LLR, taking place on Wednesday 9 March, 13.00-14.00. The [ProvidingCare.net](#)

[website](#) has been designed to support care home providers and carers in LLR by providing rapid access to a wide range of useful and practical information and resources. The webinar will describe how the site can support you, whatever your role in a care home.

Please use the details below to join on the day.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+44 20 3321 5208,436226855#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 436 226 855#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

ProvidingCare.net was developed as part of the LLR Better Care Together programme by the Care Home Sub Group, a committee responsible for implementing the Enhanced Health in Care Homes framework across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. It has been funded through the NHS Ageing Well programme. It is care home focussed at the moment, but the aim is for it to be developed to be relevant for all types of adult social care.

Free Infection Prevention Control Leadership Programme applications now open

The Florence Nightingale Foundation is renowned for its bespoke leadership training. The programmes are designed to build confidence, authority and influence, to contribute to changes in practice at a local and national level to improve patient care and health outcomes.

In May 2022, it will begin its free leadership programme for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Champions (such as Healthcare Support Workers/Allied Healthcare Professionals).

Key components of the programme include:

- Fundamentals in IPC
- Personal leadership style
- Greater self-presence and personal impact
- Deeper understanding of the impact of self on others
- Improved confidence in speaking up
- Ability to understand and lead improvement
- Greater awareness of personal approach to leadership
- Career promotion

- Lead with greater presence to improve patient and health outcomes

Dates:

- Monday 9 May 2022: Live compulsory introductory open session
- Four x two-hour IPC focused sessions to be completed at leisure between 9–20 May and drop-in support sessions are available
- Friday 20 May 2022: Live IPC consolidation session
- Followed by a six-week online leadership programme with action learning sets to consolidate learning

Eligibility criteria:

- IPC Champions in England such as Health Care support Workers, Allied Healthcare Professionals who have an interest in improving IPC
- Confirmed support from line manager

The closing date for applications is Monday 14 March 2022. To find and more and apply visit the Florence Nightingale Foundation [website](#).

70 at 70 – Platinum Jubilee Garden Party

On Tuesday 31 May 2022, Mike Kapur, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire will host a Platinum Jubilee Garden Party at Beaumanor Hall for 70 Leicestershire county and Leicester city residents who are turning 70 this year.

Nominations to attend the garden party can be made by anyone in the community who meets the criteria – including Leicestershire county residents born in 1952, the year Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne.

Nominations can be made online, and a description explaining why you are nominating them is required. An example nomination form is available on the website.

The closing date for is Friday 1 April 2022 and invitations will be sent out in April 2022. [Find out more and make a nomination](#).

East Midlands Care Home Awards

In [bulletin 129](#) we reported that entries are open for the East Midlands Care Home Awards. ‘Connecting Together’ celebrates care to be proud of, making a difference to care home residents and staff.

At the time of writing there had been no nominations from LLR and we would like to ensure that the dedication of Leicestershire staff and the great support carried out here can be recognised.

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

The deadline for entries is Friday 4 March at noon and the winner will be announced at the 'How we care' webinar on Wednesday 6 April, 13.00-14.45 ([register for the event](#)).

Leicestershire County Council IT downtime Saturday 26 February

Leicestershire County Council is replacing part of its IT infrastructure on Saturday 26 February - please note that the provider portal will be unavailable between the hours of 9.00 and 17.00.

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>