



# Information for adult social care providers

## Covid-19 and Flu

**Bulletin 131 – 3 March 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

### **Revocation of Vaccination as a Condition of Deployment**

The Government intends to revoke the regulations making COVID-19 vaccination a condition of deployment for health and social care staff and sought views on this through consultation. The government's [response to the consultation](#) has now been published. In the light of consultation, the government is proceeding with revocation and the regulations revoking vaccination as a condition of deployment in all health and social care settings will come into force on Tuesday 15 March 2022.

### **COVID-19 boosters in the care sector: agency staff webinar and toolkit update**

Watch the [latest webinar](#) hosted by Sir David Pearson, Chair of the Boosters Task Force for Adult Social Care, about the importance of vaccination for the adult social care agency workforce.

Vaccination remains the best defence against COVID-19. Download the latest [winter vaccine](#) campaign materials from our toolkit and make use of our boosters narrative for adult social care to help you and your colleagues, [including all agency care staff](#), make informed choices.

### **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.

Location	Address	Dates running (Friday – Sunday unless specified)	Time	Doses offered
Tesco, Leicester city	100 New Park Street, Leicester. LE3 5NJ	4/03/2022	9.00-17.00	Friday: 16+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
			15.00-17.00	Friday: 12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
		05/03/2022- 06/03/2022	9.00-17.00	Sat/Sun:12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
Lidl, Oadby	36 Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicester. LE2 4LA	4/03/2022	9.00-17.00	Friday: 16+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
			15.00-17.00	Friday: 12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster
		05/03/2022- 06/03/2022	9.00-17.00	Sat/Sun:12+, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Booster

### **New PPE website launched**

Last month, it was [announced that following a public consultation, NHS trusts, primary care and adult social care providers will continue to receive COVID-19 PPE free of charge until 31 March 2023](#) or until infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance is withdrawn or significantly amended. This is to ensure staff and their patients are protected as we learn to live with COVID-19.

Following on from the announcement, a new [online platform to order personal protective equipment \(PPE\) in England](#) has been launched to ensure continuity of PPE distribution to frontline health and care staff, and other eligible users.

There is an ongoing migration period from the previous system to the new platform, and from Monday 4 April 2022, all customers will be automatically redirected to the new PPE portal from the previous site. The new platform will be managed by NHS Supply Chain.

## **Guidance update for supported living and home care**

The guidance for [supported living settings](#) has been updated. There is no longer a legal requirement for people with COVID-19 to self-isolate, however the public health advice for people with any of the main symptoms or a positive test result is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Information for those [providing personal care to people living in their own home](#) during the coronavirus outbreak has also been revised.

## **Guidance update for visiting care homes**

Visitors in care homes are not subject to any national restrictions, and care home providers are expected to facilitate visits wherever possible in a risk-managed manner. However, people living in care homes are typically more vulnerable to severe illness because of coronavirus, and while vaccination is proving very effective, there are still some cases of severe illness, hospitalisation and death of care home residents who have been vaccinated.

Additional measures are therefore in place to facilitate visiting while keeping care home staff and residents safe, including:

- stringent infection prevention and control measures,
- individual risk assessments relating to visits,
- safe management of testing arrangements, and
- the need for resident isolation on return from some high-risk activities out of the home.

Providers may still ask visitors to make arrangements in advance of their visit, so the number of people attending at any given time may be managed. If safe visiting practices can be managed, these visits should not be limited in duration, and take place in a room that is most convenient and comfortable for the resident (for example, residents with dementia may be more comfortable in their own room with familiar possessions). When IPC measures are in place, such as visiting in a ventilated area, wearing appropriate PPE for the visit, and washing hands before and after visiting - gloves are not required for handholding and strict hand washing is recommended - physical contact should be able to benefit health and wellbeing.

On the day of their visit, visitors should still receive a negative lateral flow test result and report it either when they conduct the test at home or upon arrival at the care home. Face masks should be worn when visiting a care home, particularly when moving through the care home. COVID-19 spreads through the air by droplets and aerosols that are exhaled from the nose and mouth of an infected person. Face masks reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, especially when there is close contact between people in enclosed, poorly ventilated, and crowded spaces. It is important that face masks fit securely around the face to safely cover the mouth,

nose and chin. There may be circumstances where face coverings cause distress to residents, and in these situations a comprehensive risk assessment should be carried out so that strategies can be developed to manage those risks.

The guidance for visits out of the care home also remain unchanged, as well as the associated testing expectations. All residents (regardless of vaccination status) should not normally need to self-isolate following a visit out, but a risk assessment should be completed.

The role of the essential caregiver remains unchanged. Caregivers can offer companionship or help with care needs, and can visit even during periods of outbreak, providing they do not have COVID-19. In the exceptional circumstances where someone may need the additional support of more than one essential caregiver, this should be considered, for example, if the nominated essential caregiver is unwell. Essential caregivers should follow the same testing arrangements as staff, both for asymptomatic testing and during an outbreak, and wear PPE and follow IPC guidance as necessary.

Families and residents should be informed of the care home's visiting policy, as well as any necessary adjustments to arrangements.

The vaccination requirement still applies to professionals who enter a care home. The vaccination status of individuals who do not intend to enter the building is not required.

Outbreak control measures remain in place if there are two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 (or clinically suspected cases) among people within the same setting, with the onset of symptoms within 14 days. This will restrict indoor visiting, but as before, essential caregivers can continue to attend.

### **National testing updates**

DHSC has issued the following updates on testing:

- [Extra care and supported living](#)
- [Home care](#)
- [Community life choices or day services](#)
- [Care homes](#)

### **Verifyplus testing function**

[Verifyplus](#) has been developed to help care homes to log staff testing. Please see [this video](#) for more information.

## Finance update

### *Residential care fee review – extended deadline*

In [bulletin 130](#) we notified you that the deadline for submitting the Care Analytics questionnaire was extended to 8 March, that was an error. The deadline has been extended to Tuesday 15 March. Additionally, we are planning a fee review workshop on Tuesday 8 March at 14.00 so care home staff can learn more about the fee review and how to complete the questionnaire. If you would like to attend, please email [dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk](mailto:dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk).

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

### *Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (WRF)*

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Here's a reminder to submit details of the actual expenditures for the period 1 December 2021 to 31 January 2022. Also, please submit information about the number of jobs, and the number of additional hours generated in that period. Submit this information using this [online form](#) by Wednesday 9 March 2022. For more information see [bulletin 117](#) and email [dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk](mailto:dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk) with any questions.

## OTHER NEWS

### **Launch of Providing Care website webinar on Wednesday 9 March at 13.00**

In the last bulletin we invited you to the launch of the ProvidingCare.net website on Wednesday 9 March, 13.00-14.00. Please use the details in [bulletin 130](#) to join on the day.

### **Mental health and wellbeing**

To support the wellbeing of care workers, the Department of Health and Social Care has worked alongside the NHS and other organisations to provide a package of emotional, psychological and practical [resources for the workforce](#). This package includes support helplines, guidance, bereavement resources and a bespoke package of support for registered managers.

### **Skills for Care Registered Manager webinar: maximise retention**

In partnership with Neil Eastwood, Founder & CEO, Care Friends, and author of Saving Social Care, a webinar to be held on 23 March 14.00-14.30 will share sector expertise around maximising the retention of your staff. Join the webinar to hear some top tips and innovative solutions for staff retention and lots of useful practical ideas from other managers. [Register for the webinar now](#).

## **2022 Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Care & Support Services Directory**

The [2022 edition of the Care Directory](#) is now available.

### **Cyber aware: bolster your online defences**

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the [National Cyber Security Centre](#) has reiterated their call for organisations in the UK to bolster their online defences.

Russian cyber activity in Ukraine may feel far away, but all UK organisations have been encouraged to take action in response to malicious cyber incidents, and make sure they are taking appropriate cyber safeguards. Care providers are encouraged to check their cyber security arrangements and their practices in the light of this recent activity. [Read more on the Digital Social Care website.](#)

### **Care home deterioration tool survey**

Following on from the first care home deterioration survey, published in August 2021, the second survey is due to go live on 1 March. A notification for the survey can be found on the [Capacity Tracker homepage](#) when logged on.

By completing the survey care homes will be helping the [NHS National Patient Safety Improvement Team](#), including [Patient Safety Collaboratives](#) through the [Academic Health Science Network](#), to understand more about what happens when residents experience an episode of acute physical deterioration. It will help the team to understand which tools are used and how deteriorating residents are identified, and managed, across care homes in England.

[Find out more](#) about the deterioration work the team are doing, the tools which can be used and how to get in touch.

### **Leicestershire County Council residential forum on Monday 7 March at 10.30**

As you may recall, in [bulletin 130](#) we reported that the residential forum scheduled for Monday 7 March will begin at the earlier time of 10.30 with the usual end at noon, to reflect its focus on strategic, contractual and COVID-19 matters.

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>