



Information for adult social care providers

Covid-19 and Flu

Bulletin 138 – 14 April 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Discharges to care homes: urgent temporary arrangements

University Hospitals Leicester (UHL) have been discussing their current situation concerning discharges with Local Authority teams across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). There is an increasing need to rapidly discharge patients who no longer require hospital care due to pressures in the system. A local temporary agreement across LLR has been made, which will take effect from today (14 April 2022) as follows:

- If possible, PCR to be carried out at UHL within 48 hours prior to discharge to care home, as per current guidance.
- However, if the above is not possible, UHL will carry out a PCR and LFT on the day of discharge, and where the LFT result is negative the patient can be discharged, subject to the care home being able to accept the patient on this basis.
- Care home to isolate patient on admission, pending the PCR result being confirmed.
- If the PCR result is still not available after 48 hours then the care home should do a repeat LFT, and if negative then the patient can come out of isolation.
- If the LFT test is positive prior to discharge, they can be admitted to the care home if the home is satisfied they can be cared for safely (as per the care home's risk assessment). They should be isolated on arrival for up to 10 days, with the option to end isolation if two LFTs taken 24 hours apart are both negative after day 5.

This is a temporary measure that will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

For any IPC queries for County or Rutland care homes over the weekend, please contact Karen Wood, IPC Strategic Lead on 07564 043555.

Webinar recording on changes to COVID-19 measures for care homes

As you know, recent weeks have seen the updating of guidance for care homes and other care settings as part of the broader 'Living with COVID-19' plans announced by the Government.

In a webinar recording, Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, and other colleagues from the Department of Health and Social Care discuss changes to testing, IPC and answer care colleagues' questions and concerns.

[Watch the webinar here.](#)

Vaccination

Whilst mandatory vaccination in social care settings is no longer a requirement, vaccination remains a primary protection measure against COVID-19, reducing the risk of serious illness, hospitalisation and death. To minimise risk to people who receive care and support, health and social care providers should encourage and support all their staff to have COVID-19 vaccines and boosters for which they are eligible, as well as a vaccine for seasonal influenza.

Everyone eligible can either book their first dose, second dose and booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccination online via the [national booking service](#) or can attend a walk-in centre. Information developed for LLR, including local sessions, is available [here](#).

Bereavement resources for the adult social care workforce

Losing someone close to you, whether it's a family member, friend or colleague, can be devastating. This loss may have been especially difficult during the pandemic because you may not have been able to spend time with your loved one due to infection risks or may have been unable to say goodbye in the way you would have wanted.

Working in the social care sector, you may also grieve the loss of residents or people who use your services, particularly those with whom you had a longstanding and meaningful relationship. This may be made more difficult if you cannot share details about work with your friends and family.

We hope that the bereavement resources gathered on the [government website](#) may help you, your workers and others.

Capacity Tracker

As you know from previous bulletins, [capacity tracker](#) data collection will continue into 2023. Following review with provider groups, CQC and local authorities, many infection control fund and flu vaccination questions are to be removed. The frequency of workforce and COVID-19 vaccination questions will also be reduced to weekly and a field for second boosters added where relevant.

Further phases of the review will focus on improving questions on workforce, visiting and maximising the value of the tracker to providers. Capacity tracker users should have received more detail already. If not, please email necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net.

Infection Prevention and Control Champions Network

The Queen's Nursing Institute has launched a new infection prevention and control network for nurses and their colleagues working in adult social care settings. The IPC Champions Network builds on measures already in place to maintain and continuously improve standards across the care sector.

Lessons learned from the pandemic will be rolled out through the network to help minimise the future spread of infections, including COVID-19 and flu, to protect people living in care homes and receiving home care. The champions will share best practice through a series of virtual meetings, a newsletter and discussion forum.

The network is open to frontline social care staff responsible for infection prevention and control in their specific areas or homes. Endorsed by Deborah Sturdy, it can help you become an IPC expert, share vital knowledge with others, and save lives.

See the [network website](#) for more information and how to join.

'Keeping the Best and Growing your Workforce' home care provider event

East Midlands ADASS and Skills for Care are running an in-person event on 26 April 2022 to support home care providers with finding and keeping the best members of staff.

The event is exclusive to services providing support to those living in their own homes, as recruitment and retention of staff in this part of the adult social care workforce presents unique challenges. It is targeted at those involved in attracting and keeping the workforce.

The event will include the opportunity to:

- hear from speakers on digital marketing, effective adverts, and low staff turnover
- successful onboarding and retention strategies
- network with other home care providers
- hear about local initiatives and examples of what has worked well
- feed back on barriers to effective recruitment and retention.

[Find out more and book.](#)

Yours sincerely

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Director of Adults and Communities

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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>