



Information for adult social care providers

Covid-19 and Flu

Bulletin 141 – 5 May 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Updates to national IPC COVID-19 supplement

The [Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement](#) was updated on 3 May. A summary follows.

Face coverings for staff

In communal care settings, face masks can be used for source control and can be worn sessionally, for up to 4 hours, unless the staff member is providing personal care or cleaning the room of someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, or is carrying out an aerosol generating procedure (AGP). After 4 hours, or after leaving the room (or cohorted area) of someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (whichever is sooner) masks should be disposed of and replaced with a new mask. Masks should also be replaced if they become contaminated, dirty, damp or after being removed for breaks or to allow the care worker to eat or drink. Sessional use of masks only applies to communal care settings.

Visiting

All visitors (not just those providing personal care) to care homes are encouraged to wear a face covering, particularly when moving through the home. Visitors providing personal care should show proof of their negative test result prior to entry.

Children under the age of 11, who are visiting a care home, may choose whether to wear face masks. However, they should be encouraged to follow the IPC guidelines such as practising hand hygiene.

Where visiting is modified during an outbreak of COVID-19 or where a care home resident has confirmed COVID-19, every resident should be enabled to continue to receive one visitor at a time inside the care home. End-of-life visiting should always be supported, and testing is not required in any circumstances for an end-of-life visit.

Aerosol-generating procedures

Filtering face piece class 3 (FFP3) respirators are required when undertaking AGPs on a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection, or another infection spread by the airborne or droplet route. FFP3 respirators should be removed outside of the room where the AGP was carried out and disposed of. They should then be replaced with a type I, II or IIR mask depending on what is most appropriate for the next task. If there is a risk of contact with splash with blood or body fluids and the FFP3 is not fluid resistant this needs to be a full-face visor (which covers the eyes, nose and mouth area).

The AGP list has been updated, and aligns with the list in the [national IPC Manual](#) which is based on a recent evidence review.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The commonly identified symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections have increased and also include:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

Any of these symptoms may also have another cause. Particular judgement should be applied to those who may experience symptoms on this list routinely as part of a pre-existing health condition in order to distinguish these symptoms from symptoms of COVID-19.

Discharge from hospital into a care home

There is an ongoing need to rapidly discharge patients who no longer require hospital care due to pressures in the system. The local temporary agreement across LLR (as highlighted in bulletin 138) will remain in place. To summarise:

- 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. N.B. It is important that the results of an LFT or PCR are obtained by the care provider prior to discharge.
- Care home to isolate patient on admission, pending the PCR result being confirmed (even if the LFT is negative).

- 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 remains a temporary measure that will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

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	Time	Doses offered
De Montfort University	Gateway House, Leicester, LE1 9BH	06/05/2022	3pm – 5pm	Friday: 5+ 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 1st booster dose
		07/05/2022 – 08/05/2022	11am - 5pm	Saturday and Sunday: 5+ 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 1st booster dose
Lidl, Loughborough	Station Avenue, LE11 5HL	05/05/2022 – 06/05/2022	11am – 3pm	Thursday and Friday: 16+ 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 1st booster dose
			3pm – 5pm	Thursday and Friday: 5+ 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 1st booster dose
		07/05/2022	11am – 5pm	Saturday: 5+ 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 1st booster dose

Leicestershire County Council IPC web pages

The [Council's infection prevention and control website](#) has been updated and is now available to access. A variety of information can be found on the pages, including preventing the spread of infections, different types of infections and training resources.

This website is aimed at care providers within Leicestershire and Rutland.

If you have any comments or suggested improvements, please complete the 'Help us improve this page' section. This can be found towards the bottom of each web page.

Expiry dates on rapid Lateral Flow Tests

Always read the instructions on a pack of LFTs carefully before you do a test, as they may differ from those that you have used before. Check the expiry date before you do the test. Do not use out-of-date tests - use a test from a box which is still in date.

Dispose of out-of-date tests. Recycle what you can, such as the cardboard box and paper test kit instructions. Put the rest in your general rubbish.

OTHER NEWS

'Finding a solution to the recruitment and retention crisis' conference

Lincolnshire Care Association is hosting a conference to help equip providers across the East Midlands to deal with the challenges around recruiting and retaining the right staff. The conference will take place on Tuesday 7 June 2022, 9am – 4pm, at The Jakeman Community Stadium, Boston United FC, Boston, PE21 7NE.

Guest speakers will discuss onboarding, recruiting skills, attracting the right candidates, utilising social media in recruitment campaigns, and how to support current staff during the cost-of-living crisis. The DWP Care Champion will be talking about how they can help with recruitment.

Ticket price is £28 per person, which includes refreshments and a light buffet lunch. Spaces are limited and will be booked on a first come, first served basis.

Please email careinlincs@linca.org.uk for further information.

Nurses' Day – 12 May 2022

International Nurses' Day celebrates the contribution that nurses make to societies around the world. The date has a very strong significance, being the birthday of perhaps the world's most famous nurse, Florence Nightingale.

The RCN is inviting people to share their stories: #BestOfNursing story – it might be about colleague or an example of care you provided, or care provided to yourself or a loved one. Nurses' Day is your opportunity to share that story and say thank you.

[Find out more here.](#)

Nurses' Day is a chance to celebrate what you do, as well as an opportunity to say thank you.

Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Awards: who will you nominate?

The Chief Nurse Awards have been developed to acknowledge and reward the significant and outstanding contribution made by social care workers and nurses in England. The award recognises nurses and care workers who go above and beyond in providing excellent care, leadership, and inspiration to their colleagues, patients, and service users.

Each award winner will be encouraged to become a Social Care Ambassador - a role that involves taking advantage of every opportunity to raise the profile of the nursing and care profession both in the workplace and in the public arena to help improve and transform public perceptions of the sector.

[Read inspiring stories of recent award winners.](#)

Read more about the [Chief Nurse Awards](#) and [make a nomination](#). It doesn't take long to make a nomination and, if your submission is successful, you'll really make their day!

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>