



Issue 6 – 18 August 2022

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Guidance and good practice

Preparing for the autumn COVID-19 booster programme including early action for care homes

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have recommended an autumn COVID-19 booster for cohorts 1-9. This includes residents in care homes for older adults and their carers, as well as other frontline health and social care workers. The timing or severity of any potential future waves of COVID-19 in the UK cannot yet be predicted, however winter remains the season when the threat from COVID-19 is greatest for individuals and for health communities.

The main aim of the 2022 Autumn booster programme will be to increase immunity amongst the population, and protect against severe COVID-19 disease, specifically hospitalisations and death. As part of the Government’s strategy of living with COVID-19, protecting the most vulnerable people in society will remain a priority. The first priority group to be offered COVID-19 Autumn booster vaccinations are [residents in care homes for older adults and their carers](#).

There is clear evidence that those living in residential care homes for older adults have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 as they have had a high risk of exposure to infection and are at higher clinical risk of severe disease and mortality. Given the increased risk of outbreaks, illness and mortality in these closed settings, these adults are considered to be at very high risk.

Vaccination of residents and staff at the same time is considered to be a highly efficient strategy. Frontline health and social care workers are at increased personal risk of exposure to infection with COVID-19 and of transmitting that infection to vulnerable individuals. The committee considers frontline health and social care workers who provide care to vulnerable people a high priority for vaccination.

Those eligible for an Autumn COVID booster will likely be eligible for a seasonal flu vaccination as well. It is important individuals are given their COVID-19 and flu vaccine as soon as they are eligible, rather than delaying for the purpose of having

both at the same time. This may require two vaccination visits if flu vaccines are not available at the start of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. The consequences of getting flu and COVID-19 at the same time are more severe, and vaccination will offer protection for both of these illnesses.

An evergreen offer is expected to remain should a resident or staff member decline the initial invitation and later change their mind. This means staff and residents are able to come forward at any time to start (or continue) their vaccination.

Winter programme

The Autumn COVID-19 booster programme will commence on 5 September 2022 and is expected to be complete a few weeks later. Vaccination teams will be in contact with care home providers to make specific arrangements.

An updated version of the COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for adult booster doses, which will target two coronavirus variants; half of the vaccine targets the original strain from 2020 and the other half targets the Omicron variant. This is known as a bivalent vaccine, and further details can be found [here](#). However, all of the available boosters provide good protection against severe illness from COVID-19 and the Committee has emphasised that getting a booster in good time before the winter season is more important for those eligible than the type of vaccine that is received.

Given the timescales to commence the Autumn booster programme for care home residents, care home staff should begin to obtain consent now.

Consent

Residents should be grouped into 3 categories:

- Those who are likely to have mental capacity to consent
- Those who have or may require a Legal Power of Attorney (LPA) to consent on their behalf
- Those who may require a best interest decision made on their behalf.

For residents able to provide consent themselves, please print and complete the form found [here](#). A [covering letter](#) is also available.

Where residents are unable to consent for themselves, seek to complete [this form](#) as soon as possible. A [covering letter](#) for the Attorney of a resident unable to consent for themselves is also available.

For residents who are deemed to lack mental capacity to consent, and where a best interests decision will need to be made, relatives can be asked to inform this decision. [This form](#) can be used to register the relative's view. A letter template explaining this can be found [here](#).

Details on how the Mental Capacity Act (2005) applies can be found [here](#).

Consent should be prepared in advance, as early as possible, to ensure an efficient vaccination visit. For further details about consent, please refer to the [Greenbook guidance on consent](#).

Vaccinating when a care home is in outbreak

COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to older adults in care homes and their carers, with the aim of achieving high uptake as quickly as possible, including when other residents have been diagnosed as having COVID-19 infection.

Individuals who are acutely unwell, or those who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 4 weeks will need to temporarily delay their vaccination. All other staff and care home residents should receive prompt COVID vaccination. There is no evidence of any safety concerns from vaccinating individuals with a history of COVID-19 infection, or with detectable COVID19 antibody.

Before attending a care home in an outbreak, immunisation teams will perform a risk assessment with the care home manager. Local UKHSA Health protection teams can provide advice if needed, as well as IPC teams and the DPH. This will include an assessment of the outbreak, the environment and its adaptability for vaccinations and adherence to IPC guidance.

FAQs

How well do the COVID-19 vaccines work?

Anyone who gets COVID-19 can become seriously ill or have long-term effects (long COVID). The COVID-19 vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and others. Research has shown the vaccines help:

- reduce your risk of getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19
- reduce your risk of catching or spreading COVID-19
- protect against COVID-19 variants

There is a chance you might still get or spread COVID-19 even if you have a vaccine, so it's important to follow advice about how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19.

Are there side effects from the vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness. They can cause some side effects, but not everyone gets them.

Any side effects are usually mild and should not last longer than a week, such as:

- a sore arm from the injection
- feeling tired
- a headache
- feeling achy

- feeling or being sick
- More serious side effects, such as allergic reactions or blood clotting, are very rare.

Find out more about COVID-19 vaccine side effects and safety [here](#).

What ingredients are in the vaccines?

You can find out about the ingredients in the vaccines currently available in the UK:

- Moderna (Spikevax) COVID-19 [vaccine patient leaflet](#)
- Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 [vaccine patient leaflet](#)

Are there religious objections to being vaccinated?

Religious objections to vaccines are for a wide range of reasons depending upon the individual, the interpretation of their religion and the vaccine. Objections may be based on beliefs that the body should avoid certain chemicals, stem cell or animal derived products.

The COVID-19 vaccines being used in the UK do not use pork gelatine. There have also been objections relating to ethanol or host cell lines used in the production of some vaccines. The UK COVID-19 vaccine rollout is endorsed by the British Islamic Medical Association, Hindu Council UK, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Is vaccination for staff mandatory?

Vaccination is no longer mandatory. People working or volunteering in care homes are no longer required to have received a COVID-19 vaccine to enter the premises. The Government's overriding concern remains the protection of vulnerable people, and continue to strongly encourage vaccination.

Learning and development opportunities

Eden CARES roadshows

To improve the knowledge and confidence of care home staff caring for people with diabetes, Eden CARES is offering their accredited training programme in four 90-minute bite-size roadshows covering the key aspects of diabetes care.

- Roadshow One: The Who, What and Why of Diabetes. Topics include screening, risk factors, diagnosis, initial treatment, complications.
- Roadshow Two: Who needs finger pricking, who needs technology and what do the tablets do?
- Roadshow Three: Let them Eat Cake. Topics include risk factors for those who are frail and elderly- highs, lows and feet.
- Roadshow Four: Things I need to know but may not have been told. Topics include insulin, end of life care, mental well-being, dementia and a bit of everything else.

For groups and care homes that are concerned about receiving face to face training, Eden can provide the sessions online.

If you are interested, please email eden@uhl-tr.nhs.uk with your preference for face-to-face or online webinars.

IPC Webinar Series 2022

The County and Rutland local authority IPC team is continuing with its series of short webinars called 'IPC Basics'. IPC champions, housekeeping staff, and others working in adult social care who are interested in infection prevention and control should attend these short refresher courses.

Thursday 22 September 2pm - 3pm

IPC Basics 4 - Catheter Care and Reducing the Risks of Urinary Tract Infection
Caring for urinary catheters and reducing the risks of urinary infection in an adult social care setting.

Wednesday 26 October, 2pm - 3pm

IPC Basics 5 – Management of Sharps and Spillages
Best practice in relation to managing sharps and spillages within a care environment.

Wednesday 20 November, 2pm - 3pm

IPC Basics 6 - Sepsis Awareness
What is sepsis and how can you recognise it in an adult social care setting.

You need a learning hub account with the Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG) to access these webinars.

Follow the instructions via this link to create an account with the LSCDG
<https://www.lscdg.org/lms-information/>.

The learning hub can be found at <http://leicestershiretotara.learningpool.com>. Search 'LSCDG Infection Prevention & Control Basics' to book online.

For course queries email infection@leics.gov.uk.

Free introduction to life story workshops

Care home workers can participate in free workshops led by Rob Grady from Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS FT that introduce life story work and a person-centred approach as an everyday therapeutic activity in care homes. The workshops are split in to two interactive 1-hour sessions as follows:

Workshop one: Introduction to life story work

Wednesday 14 September, 1pm – 2pm

An interactive introduction to life story work and will cover the aims, the benefits, and overall good practice. You will learn about [Joe's story](#) and how incorporating the principles of life story in to your everyday work can have a positive impact on everyone involved.

Workshop two: A guide to a successful life story interaction

Wednesday 28 September, 1pm – 2pm

This second workshop brings together everything learnt in the first workshop and puts it in to practice. You will learn hints and tips to get you started and build confidence in using life story work in your everyday practice.

[Reserve your place here.](#)

Workforce Development Fund

Leicestershire Social Care Development (LSCDG) have been successful in securing the [Workforce Development Fund](#) from Skills for Care.

The WDF is funding from the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) disseminated by Skills for Care and supports the provision of high-quality care and the continuing professional development (CPD) of staff across the adult social care sector by providing a contribution towards the costs of vocational learning.

To qualify for funding, you must provide adult social services and directly employ care staff in England.

The LSCDG will hold a series of workshops from September to December 2022 to explain how to claim the WDF.

You can email lscdg@leics.gov.uk for further information.

‘Connecting Together’ East Midlands care home webinar

Thursday 3 November 2022, 1pm – 2.30pm

Focusing on ‘P’ Prevention

This free webinar is available to all care home staff working in the East Midlands. It is hosted by the East Midlands Patient Safety Collaborative and is part of the ‘Connecting Together’ series.

[Find out more about the webinar and book your place.](#)

NHS iPad closedown including support sessions

On 30 June 2022, centrally funded support for Mobile Device Management software on the iPads ended. Between 1 and 11 July 2022, the iPads were issued with daily commands to reset to factory settings. Data on the iPad will have been deleted and the iPad will behave as if brand new out of the box.

Care homes who had taken action prior to the 30 June 2022 had the opportunity to create a new Apple ID and back up their data to the cloud, enabling them to retain photos and documents.

There are still a number of devices that have not accepted the reset command, and for these devices they will no longer operate until action is taken.

[The resetting your iPad FAQ](#) explains how the iPads can be placed into recovery mode and reset to factory settings. This can no longer be done remotely, and will need actioning by individual care homes. The iPad will need to be connected to a computer using the cable provided and a reset completed.

The NHS Transformation Directorate will be hosting 2 drop-in sessions to offer advice and guidance to on how to reset your iPad if you haven't already done so. The sessions will be recorded and made available on the Digital Social Care Website after the event.

Drop in details are below. Please click on the link to join the Microsoft Teams meeting.

- [23rd August 2022 2pm – 2.30pm](#)
- [13th September 2022 2pm – 2.30pm](#)

Council updates

Framework for Integrated Personalised Care (FIPC)

In a [previous bulletin](#) we introduced you to the work being undertaken across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) on the Framework for Integrated Personalised Care (FIPC).

The new framework will replace the current LLR Health and Social Care Protocol (2014) and has been jointly developed by partner organisations:

- East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group
- Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group
- Leicester City Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Rutland County Council
- West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
- University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
- Leicestershire Partnership Trust

As part of this change you may have received an invitation via email inviting you to a launch event on Thursday 15 September at the NSPCC. As numbers are limited for this event, if you have received an invitation, please could you RSVP to rebecca.dagley@leics.gov.uk by Friday 26 August.

Please note that following this event there will be three, virtual launch events (via Microsoft Teams), giving you further opportunities to find out what these changes mean to you, your role and the people you support.

The dates for the virtual launches will be shared in the next Provider News.

If you have any queries or would like to know more about the changes taking place, please email naina.karadia@leics.gov.uk or fipcqueries@leics.gov.uk.

Home Care for Leicestershire: access to the await care list from 1 November onwards

If you are a provider which has not been awarded a contract on the HCL Framework, you will continue to see the await care list and can pick up packages until 31 October 2022. After this date you will no longer receive the await care list and therefore will not be able to pick up any additional packages.

There is no intention to find new providers for existing packages, which will remain with their current provider until no longer required.

Data tracking

DHSC mandated data collection

In previous bulletins, we reported that from Sunday 31 July, DHSC will mandate a core subset of the data which care providers have already been submitting through the Capacity Tracker (CT).

It is now necessary for care providers to update their data by the end of the 14th day of each month, or the next working day where the 14th falls on a weekend or public holiday.

Data must be no more than a week out of date – that is, data must be correct to no further back than the 8th of each month.

As reported in [Provider News 5](#), the first set of monthly data was due a few days ago - by the end of 14 August 2022.

For care home provider locations, the mandatory information will include:

- care home bed vacancies and home care service users
- workforce resourcing including absences
- vaccination, COVID-19 and (seasonal) flu including data relating to the coming autumns COVID-19 booster campaign
- visiting (care home) data
- From October, COVID-19 vaccination data collection will be mandated
- From November, enforcement mechanism will be rolled out – financial penalties will be set at the same level as CQC registration fee – but this will be a last step to be used in rare circumstances

Other data items in CT are often key for local operational support and providers are asked to provide more regular updates to these items. For example, confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases in staff and residents, PPE availability, daily bed vacancy updates and workforce data, including data requests. These are separate to the mandated lists but are essential to continue to support care providers and health and social care partners such as discharge teams, to keep people and staff safe and healthy as possible. The daily vacancy data is useful when more frequent because it supports people to be in the right place for their specific needs.

For a full list of mandatory information and other data items read [adult social care provider information provisions: guidance for providers on data collection](#).

If you need help filling in the CT the please contact the North of England Care System Support (NECS) unit. NECS provides a dedicated support centre – Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm – to support care providers and wider stakeholder users of the CT with completing or updating the system, accessing, or using the reports and analytics. Contact NECS on 0191 691 3729 or via necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net.

Awards

Nominate a carer for an East Midlands Care Home Award

Do you know of a care home or a carer (from a care home) who always goes that extra mile? Now is the time to show them how appreciated they are by nominating them for an East Midlands care home award.

These awards are part of the ‘Connecting Together’ webinars, which are held each quarter and bring together the East Midlands community of care homes to celebrate care to be proud of.

The theme for this award is for those who have been ‘Involved and worked with residents and/or their family in projects to improve care’ – for an individual or team that has shown exceptional involvement in improving care.

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

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

The deadline for entries is Monday 12 September by noon and the winner will be announced at the ‘Focusing on ‘P’ Prevention’ Connecting Together webinar on Thursday 3 November. You can [register for this event here](#).

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 29 August 2022.

Please contact enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk if you are interested in writing about a topic of your choice, or perhaps something that is particularly important to you, in the next edition of Provider News.