

This week: 1st February 2021

1. News & updates

Suspension of Confirmatory PCR Briefing Note – Full document: summary:

- Care Home and Domiciliary care staff should still have a confirmatory PCR test following a positive Lateral Flow test
- Staff should not wait for the PCR result and should isolate as soon as possible following a positive lateral flow test.
- Please also note staff should continue Lateral flow tests on return to work following a positive PCR test (Lateral flow tests indicate infectiveness - staff are exempt from PCR tests for 90 days)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949665/Care_Home_Testing_Guidance_visual_v291220-1.pdf

Is your needle stick / sharps injury policy up to date? In preparation for further vaccinations please ensure your needle stick injury policy is up to date. Guidance can be found at:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/needlesticks/>

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/adult-social-care/handling-sharps-adult-social-care>

Requesting staff that are asymptomatic and testing positive for COVID19 to work in care sector is NOT recommended

Staff Vaccinations

Option 1 of 2 -

1. Providers have been asked to complete and return the attached paperwork to the LCC contracts team
2. LCC contract team then pass the details to ELHT who should then contact the providers.
3. If there is a lag with ELHT contacting provider then providers who have definitely returned the relevant paper work to LCC can email ELHT on OccupationalHealth.Covid19@elht.nhs.uk

Option 2 of 2 –

In accordance with the letter dated 7th January 2021- *C1008 Operational Guidance Vaccination of Frontline Health and Social Care Workers*, our local hospital hub at ELHT has commenced vaccination of frontline health and social care workers. Clinics are split between

Royal Blackburn Hospital and Burnley General Hospital and will be strictly by pre-booked appointment only.

Pennine Lancashire CCGs have agreed a process with ELHT, to streamline requests from eligible staff cohorts to ensure priority is given in line with current guidelines. This includes but is not limited to:

- staff working on the vaccination programme
- staff who have frequent face-to-face contact with patients and who are directly involved in patient care in either secondary or primary care, mental health, urgent and emergency care and community settings
- those working in independent, voluntary and non-standard healthcare settings such as hospices, and community-based mental health or addiction services
- laboratory, pathology and mortuary staff
- those working for a sub-contracted provider of facilities services such as portering or cleaning
- temporary, locum or 'bank' staff, including those working in the COVID-19 vaccination programme, students, trainees and volunteers who are working with patients
- frontline social care workers directly working with vulnerable people who need care and support irrespective of where they work (for example in hospital, people's own homes, day centres, or supported housing); or who they are employed by (for example local government, NHS, independent sector or third sector).

Referring organisations will need to identify a single point of contact (SPOC) to collate requests from their eligible workforce, assess these against the eligibility criteria, and complete the attached form with staff in priority order and returning to elccg.covidvaccination@nhs.net . This process will allow us to ensure we are targeting the correct cohorts in line with national guidance, and requests will only be accepted via the nominated SPOC.

Following receipt of the referral form, individuals will be notified via email of instructions on how to book an appointment on the system. It is important that they are able to provide an individual email address as this will be a key identifier in accessing the booking system. Individuals will also need to know their NHS number to progress through the booking system.

Information leaflets in relation to the vaccination are attached and the most up to date/multi lingual versions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-protection-immunisation>

[NHS and Social Care staff notice on close contacts, isolation and testing](#)

[Updates to guidance in relation to care homes \(latest\)](#)

[Care Homes vaccination mobilisation guidance](#)

[Vaccination Update for Care homes](#)

Post vaccine guidance for health care workers: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951749/PHE_COVID-19_vaccination_guide_for_healthcare_workers_English_v2.pdf

[Kickstart Government Scheme \(work experience scheme\)](#)

[Top 10 Tips from Care Homes who have had outbreaks](#)

[Coffee and engagement – the results - You said we did](#)

[pdfAZ intro Pfizer updates + Care Home Presentation 12.01.2021 \(2.52 MB\)](#)

Covid19 Resource Pack for Care Homes - please do have a look at the Covid19 Resource Pack for Care Homes developed by Lancashire County Council (East Lancs area) and Blackburn with Darwen Council? If not - here it is: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/920139/covid-19-resource-pack-v3-oct-2020.pdf>

2. Policies and procedures

COVID19 Care Home Resource Pack V3 October 2020 (latest version)
: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/920139/covid-19-resource-pack-v3-oct-2020.pdf>

[COVID vaccinations care home consent forms](#)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/guidance-for-covid-19-vaccination-in-care-homes-that-have-cases-and-outbreaks/>

Version 1.0 Final 2021-01-11 Care Home Visiting
Policy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

3. Training opportunities

[IPC – Back to basics IPC Webinar \(4th February\) here:](#)

[Nutrition & Hydration Resources: here:](#)

[Discussing SLT Solutions/Swallowing Difficulties following COVID. To watch the video please click on this link: <https://bit.ly/2G8VuhL>](#)

[To watch the NACC national conference on Nutrition and CoVID. ‘Can food be thy Medicine’<https://bit.ly/2TnSmkZ>](#)

[GPN & HWCS Conference](#)

Coffee and engagement sessions - the next one is on the 10th February 2021 and you can join from 2-3 pm or 6- 7 pm. The 2pm slot is on MS teams here: [Click here to join the meeting](#) and the 6pm slot here: [Click here to join the meeting](#) – you can also register here for the events and choose which option as part of the registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-coffee-engagement-2-online-sessions-to-support-the-care-sector-tickets-137296701129>

4. IPC/PPE

The UK Infection Prevention and Control guidance - agreed by the UK's four chief medical and nursing officers, has been updated to reflect the most up-to-date scientific understanding of how to prevent and control COVID-19 infection. Amendments have been made to strengthen existing messaging and provide further clarity where needed, including updates to the care pathways to recognise testing and exposure. Appendices to support the remobilisation and maintenance of dental, mental health and learning disability services have also been added. Changes to the previous version are listed on page 7 of the guidance. Following extensive clinical and scientific review, no changes to the recommendations, including PPE, have been made in response to the new variant strains at this stage, however this position will remain under constant review. Organisations who adopt practices that differ from those recommended in the national guidance are responsible for ensuring safe systems of work, including the completion of a risk assessments approved through local governance procedures. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

Please follow the link to an updated (as of 4th November 2020) list of local contacts for care providers who are not on the PPE portal. Providers can get PPE through their local authority or local resilience forum. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-local-contacts-for-care-providers?utm_source=7b0599ce-5951-49ad-aa64-8d33f4581bd8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Please also find the latest Government guidance on PPE as an illustrated guide for community and social care settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-illustrated-guide-for-community-and-social-care-settings>

Please also find the CQC guidance to ensure that care settings are compliant with IPC: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/residential-adult-social-care/infection-prevention-control-care-homes>

5. Domiciliary Care

[pdfDom Care Weekly homecare worker testing guidance for homecare agencies \(2.17 MB\)](#)

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Useful links for the domiciliary care sector (LCC) :

- External link to LCC Covid 19
Site: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/health-and-social-care/care-service-provider-engagement/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-care-providers/>
- External link to the LCC Covid 19 site, that is dom care specific: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/health-and-social-care/care-service-provider-engagement/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-care-providers/home-care/>

- External link to LCC Covid 19 webinar
: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/health-and-social-care/care-service-provider-engagement/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-care-providers/local-communications-to-providers-and-service-users/covid-19-provider-engagement-webinars/>

General/contractual queries re dom care services and Covid 19 can be sent through to: care@lancashire.gov.uk

6. Primary Care

The latest primary care bulletin for local GP practices in Pennine Lancashire (issued 8th January 2021) – **Shelley will need to give this to you to upload and link**

For information, please check out the National guidance for post acute covid19 assessment clinics <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/guidance-for-everyone/your-covid-recovery/>

7. Digital, IT and data

WhatsApp Peer to Peer Support Group - COVID has been a challenging for all providers. The CCG and partner colleagues are working hard to support all providers during these difficult times. However, some of the best support comes from fellow managers who have managed their organisation through a covid outbreak. We have set up a WhatsApp group for care home managers to offer peer to peer support, the greater support comes from those with experiences to share, lessons learnt, reflections and sometimes even a shoulder to cry on . This group has been amazing and those involved have found it to be beneficial. If you would like to be added to this group please email stephanie.zakrzewski@nhs.net with the following details :name, organisation, and mobile phone number:

Specific support for digital technology for the regulated care sector - can be found via the Digital Social Care website which is funded by NHSx and contains a host of valuable information. <https://www.digitalsocialcare.co.uk>.

NHS Digital will be de-activating all care providers' inactive individual email accounts that have not been accessed within the last 180 days. These are due to be deleted in December 2020 for North West providers What do you need to do avoid this?

During the fast track application process March – Aug 2020 all providers were set up with 1 Owner and 1 Member account

The 'Owner' is the person that has been set up to manage the shared mailbox. Normally the care home manager/ care home owner. The 'Member' is the staff that will have been deemed responsible by the care home manager to have NHSmail – this tends to be senior care staff, admin, RGNs etc.

The mailbox Owner will have received a 'welcome email' and text message password on the mobile number registered on the fast track application. Please check junk email boxes for the welcome email and the text message password will look like this xxxx-xxxx-xxxx – consists of 3 sets of characters split by a dash

Once you have located the welcome email and text message password contact Mazz Akhtar on 01282 644 723/ murriam.akhtar@nhs.net who can help you with next steps to activate your account

NHSmail FAQs: NHS Mail FAQs

Data Security Protection Toolkit (DSPT): DSPT Communications

NHS MAIL WEBINARS -

The webinars are designed to advise how to register, set up and how to use your new NHSmail account. Any Care Providers using NHSmail are encouraged to join the training webinars, these are live sessions, so you'll have the opportunity to ask questions throughout. Webinar format:

- Registering for NHSmail
- Welcome email
- Logging in for the first time
- Resetting your password
- NHSmail hints and tips
- Opening a shared mailbox
- Microsoft Teams overview
- Webinars run every Tuesday, 2.00pm – 3.00pm. To join the webinar – please use the link:
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Data Security Protection Toolkit (DSPT) Important Update

The DSPT should be completed every year, usually by 31st March. ***However, due to COVID-19, the deadline for 2020/21 has been extended to 30th June 2021.*** This means that, if you have a continuing healthcare contract or you already use systems that access NHS patient data, to remain compliant you will need to complete the 2020/21 DSPT by 30th June 2021. Other services should aim to complete it by June 2021 for residential and nursing homes, and by October 2021 for other services.

Will Entry Level be continuing?

Reflecting the need for adult social care services to operate in a way which meets the national data security standards, the option of publishing at entry level is a temporary arrangement and will be removed on 19 February 2021.

A new Approaching Standards level will be introduced in early 2021. If you have done most of the DSPT but have a bit more work left to do, you'll be able to get credit for the progress you have made by publishing at "Approaching Standards." To do this, you'll need to submit an action plan saying how and when you will complete the remaining items.

Our advice for providers in Pennine Lancashire is to aim to complete the Standards Met. There is lots of guidance and support available online via <https://www.digitalsocialcare.co.uk/data-security-protecting-my-information/data-security-and-protection-toolkit/>

8. Key dates and information

Join us for our coffee and engagement sessions – we are holding just one session, 2 – 3pm on the 10th February due to the evening session being poorly attended. The agenda is titled “Open forum - have your say. Let’s continue to support each other”

This is the MS teams link –[Click here to join the meeting](#)

You can also register here for the event:<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-coffee-engagement-an-online-sessions-to-support-the-care-sector-tickets-137296701129>

HealthWatch Covid-19 Fatigue Survey - please have a go and share the link with colleagues, residents, families, and friends: <https://healthwatchlancashire.co.uk/news/covid-survey/>

Work Foundation Research on Workforce Development in the Social Care Sector

The CCG Regulated Care Sector Team has been holding virtual coffee chats with colleagues from care homes. We understand that it is hard for everyone to make these (more to be announced!), so we have created a survey that we would like you to complete. It is a way of helping you tell us what is important for you and your care home or service, and what sort of issues you have that we may be able to help deal with or respond to: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/COVID_VCC

And finally:

Queries? Contact elccg.regulatedcareprogramme@nhs.net

Questions? Go to: <https://eastlancscg.nhs.uk/>

Facebook us: @PennineLancashireRegulatedCareProviders Community group

Previous editions: