

This week: 15th March 2021

1. News & updates

Care Home Visiting Guidance 5/3/2021 - LRF update

Coffee and Engagement Events – Second Wednesday of each month, 2pm-3pm

Calling all Regulated Care Providers! Please join us for a coffee and chat session to have your say!

The purpose of these sessions are to support the Regulated Care sector to provide high quality and safe services and to be a fully integrated part of the Pennie Lancashire Health and Social Care service delivery model by listening to, learning from and working together.

Please use this MS teams link to dial in at 2pm on the dates below, **no need to book**.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

We look forward to seeing you there.

10/03/2021	14/04/2021	12/05/2021	09/06/2021	14/07/2021
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National Testing Programme to all care homes - Following feedback, here is revised guidance regarding testing for professionals visiting care homes.

We have worked with care home providers, Dr Jenny Harries the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, Public Health England and NHS E to develop this new guidance. The guidance strengthens the existing approach for testing professional visitors to care homes in order to reduce risks from visits from professionals.

The full guidance can be found [here](#).

The key changes are:

- The default position is that without a negative test, the professional should not be allowed into the care home, (unless in an emergency, unless overridden by the care home manager following a risk based decision, or unless their entry is required by law such as CQC inspectors).
- For NHS professionals, care homes should see evidence from the professional of a negative rapid lateral flow test within the last 72hrs, which shows they are following the NHS staff testing regime.
- As per the previous guidance, professionals who are not part of regular testing for NHS staff or CQC inspectors (for example professionals such as podiatrists or engineers) will need to be tested at the care home in the same way as visitors.

- If they are visiting multiple care homes in one day, they will now only need to be tested at the first care home they visit that day and can use evidence of this test at the next care home they visit that day.
- CQC inspectors will now test at home using a lateral flow test on the day of a care home inspection, in addition to their weekly PCR.
- Like care home staff, visiting professionals are exempt from testing for 90 days following a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms.

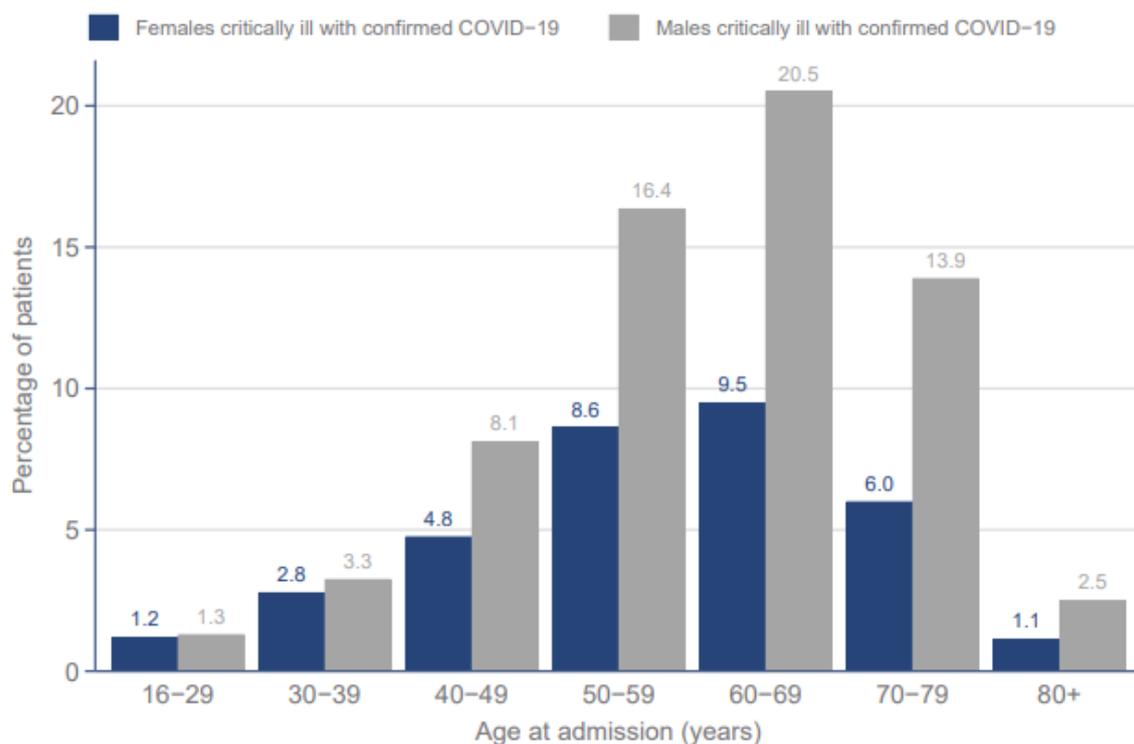
The guidance provides further details and outlines the different forms of test evidence.

This guidance should be implemented as soon as possible but we also understand that professionals and their employers will need time to get to grips with practical issues, such as how they will provide evidence to care homes. Therefore this guidance should be implemented by care homes and professionals by 22nd March if not before.

Testing is, however, only one part of the approach to reduce risk and it is critical that visiting professionals don and doff PPE appropriately and follow the relevant infection control measures when visiting a care home including hand hygiene and distancing, in order to help keep care home residents and staff safe.

Every Action Counts guidance including hints and tips:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/03/every-action-counts-hints-and-tips.pdf>

ICU Admissions – just to note that there is notable peak in ICU admissions - the graphic below which breakdowns ICU admission by age and gender....showing a peak in the 50-59 and 60-69 age group. This hopefully will serve as a reminder that everyone needs to take care and still be vigilant and take the necessary precautions regarding COVID19.



© ICNARC 2021

Figure 23. Age and sex distribution

Age and sex distribution of patients critically ill with confirmed COVID-19 admitted from 1 September 2020 to date.

Notification of End of CHS Healthcare Contract (Care Home Selection) - In January 2021, Blackburn with Darwen and East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) took the decision not to renew the contract with CHS Healthcare at the end of the current contracting period (31st March 2021). The function will initially transition to East Lancs Hospitals Trust (ELHT) as part of an expansion of the Integrated Discharge Service (IDS) and a wider access and navigation system for Intermediate Tier services across Pennine Lancashire. A new team has been recruited, with the official start date being 1st April 2021. There will be a short double running period at the end of March in between CHS finishing and the new team starting. Weekly meetings are currently being held between the CCG, CHS and ELHT in order to ensure a smooth transition. The cut-off date for any new referrals to CHS has been agreed as 24th March 2021. New referral documentation, including contact details for the ELHT team will be forwarded in due course. In the meantime, please continue to refer to CHS in the usual way. I'm sure you would like to join us in thanking CHS for their hard work and commitment to the Pennine Lancashire system over the last 7 years. Should you have any queries relating to the transition, please forward them to: Lauren.lalor@nhs.net (Sent on behalf of: Urgent Care and Intermediate Tier Team (Blackburn with Darwen and East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Groups))

COVID-19 Vaccination Booklet - please see, and feel free to download and share this information guide to covid vaccinations which was developed by Burnley Council and made relevant for every area in Pennine Lancashire by the CCG communications team:

[pdfCOVID 19 Information Booklet \(1.37 MB\)](#)

National surveillance system has been developed for reporting of Covid-19 cases in vaccinated individuals - The details can be found on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-enhanced-surveillance-of-cases-in-vaccinated-individuals/reporting-to-the-enhanced-surveillance-of-covid-19-cases-in-vaccinated-individuals>

Please note:

- Vaccinated individuals who test positive using a lateral flow device should be confirmed using PCR.
- An individual who has received 1 dose of vaccine at least 10 days prior to symptom onset should report through the online form.
- An individual who has received their second dose of vaccine at least 7 days prior to symptom onset should report through the [online form](#).

If you would like more information about this surveillance please contact PHE.vaccines@nhs.net

New: NICE safeguarding in care homes guidance:

[pdfSafeguarding adults in care homes \(411 KB\)](#)

New: Improving social care staff vaccination rates and completion of outstanding first dose vaccinations in older adult care homes:

[pdfC1168 Improving social care staff vaccination rates and completion of outstanding first dose vaccinations in older adult care homes \(173 KB\)](#)

Outbreak Advisory information (reminder):

[pdfReg care advisory v2 \(160 KB\)](#)

PLEASE READ : OFFICIAL: New Care Home Resources COVID testing pathway - Please read the following documents:

[PHE Care Home Template Resource](#)

[PHS Care Home Outbreak Testing Pathway](#)

[Log Request Form](#)

[Outbreak Testing Letter](#)

Lateral Flow Tests post isolation - the Director of Public Health for Lancashire has advised that care home staff should continue lateral flow tests post isolation due to the high number of cases in our area (this is currently different to the National Guidance published on the 16th February). Care Home Managers should ask staff to continue to carry out lateral flow tests on return from isolation – they remain exempt from PCR tests for 90 days (unless

they have a further positive lateral flow result when a confirmatory PCR should be carried out). Summary advice and guidance is [here](#):

Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS Close Contact, Self-isolation and Testing Guidance – COVID-19 :

Care Home Testing Guidance: - for specific guidance on swabbing, please check out pages 9 and 41 in the guidance for outbreak testing information.

Personal Assistants to those receiving care via a direct payment. The following link is for all Pennine Lancashire individuals who are receiving care via a direct payment. It advises of access to weekly COVID testing for PAs. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for personal assistants - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

NHS Volunteer Responder Service survey – please can you share this with colleagues, and also with residents should any residents wish to complete this. We would encourage everyone to have a view on this as this will inform the future provision and model for the NHS Volunteer Responder service nationally. Even if you haven't had personal experience of using this service, any views you have on this and also wider volunteering offer would be gratefully received:

Stakeholders - <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90310029/NHSVR-Orgs>

Residents - <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90307115/NHSVRLancs>

[pdfFire Safety in Residential Care & Nursing Homes Evacuation Pre-Planning – 7 minute briefing \(3.61 MB\)](#)

End of outbreak reminder - please can all managers please ensure they send an email marked "End of Outbreak Notification" with the attached terminal clean checklist to infectionprevention@lancashire.gov.uk as soon as it has been completed. Please refer to the care home resource pack for the associated documents. Timely completion of this will ensure all local databases are up to date with regards to the admission status of your home.

PHE NW Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) Template Resource Pack for Care Home Version 2.0: We have developed a new look, streamlined pack to simplify the information presented and reduce duplication. Importantly, we have aimed to encourage care home staff colleagues to familiarise themselves with and work within the most recent version of the published guidance. Please localise this pack for local care home use and do encourage colleagues to sign up to receive updates for general guidance [here](#) and specific social care updates [here](#).

PHE North West Pathway for Testing in Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) Care Home Outbreaks SOP (v1.5) – please note that the localised ARI pack for Lancashire is also [here](#).

Flowchart on the application of COVID-19 guidance on testing and discharge for hospital inpatients being discharged to care homes (v2): this was previously shared on the 24/12/2020 but sharing again for information and dissemination. Please can we ask you now to discard all previous versions of the documents above and disseminate and use these latest versions as appropriate?

Lancashire & South Cumbria ICS Close Contact, Self-isolation and Testing Guidance – COVID-19 - click [here](#)

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

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.

What to do if an employee refuses to take a covid 19 test – This is an interesting article, here: <https://www.homecareinsight.co.uk/legal-what-if-your-employee-refuses-to-take-a-covid-19-test/> which concludes: “Given the health and safety duties, providers should have a risk management strategy in place for managing COVID-19 risks and this should set out the role that testing plays in reducing the rate of COVID-19 transmission. The testing should be the key component of managing the risk and the Government is clearly expecting all care workers to be tested. Although mandatory testing may amount to an infringement on the right to a private life, with a clear risk management strategy in place, a court is most likely to consider it is a legitimate course of action to protect public health. Refusing to take a test is therefore likely to be a potentially fair ground for taking disciplinary action, including dismissal. Providers however need to be careful to explore the employee’s reasons for refusal and decide whether those reasons are reasonable in the circumstances. A fair disciplinary process will also of course have to be followed.

PCR Kits & Barcode errors – there are reports of barcodes in PCR kits for care homes not matching. This may result in wrong or delayed notifications. If there is a care home forum meeting in the immediate future, could you please remind care home people to check that barcodes on all the elements of the kit match up. The box should have a UN3373 label and an identical barcode to the vial and biohazard bag If they don’t, please advise then to call 119.

2. Policies and procedures

Regulated Care Meeting Agenda - Operational.doc

Red Bag Scheme – this is just a reminder to say that we do have limited stocks available of the red bags. Should you wish to obtain one please contact the Regulated Care Team. We are working with colleagues at ELHT to encourage the safe return of red bags following discharge. More information will be provided in the next bulletin, but in the meantime here is the page with resources about the scheme: <https://eastlancscg.nhs.uk/patient-information/local-services/red-bag-scheme> - see also a presentation on the Red Bag Scheme:



What goes in the Red Bag?

1. Care Home resident's personal belongings
2. Care Home Resident Assessment Form,
3. Care Home SBAR Escalation Record,
4. Care Home MAR Sheet,
5. Care Home This is me leaflet,
6. Red Bag Checklist

& Essential Medications

- E.g.
- Parkinson's
 - Insulin
 - All Red Flag Meds

A bottle of fluids to keep the resident hydrated



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.

COVID vaccinations care home consent forms

Guidance for COVID-19 vaccination in care homes that have cases and outbreaks

Version 1.0 Final 2021-01-11 Care Home Visiting Policy

document2021 03 09 Regulated Care Meeting Agenda Operational doc (137 KB)

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the care home resource pack for the associated documents. Timely completion of this will ensure all local databases are up to date with regards to the admission status of your home.

Ventilation Guidance (from the CCG Infection Control Team) - We appreciate that as the weather turns colder it may become difficult to maintain natural ventilation (e.g. opening windows) in care homes and office spaces and still keep staff and residents at a comfortable temperature. However adequate ventilation and air exchange is important in reducing the risk of aerosol transmission. Therefore please consider the points below:

- Ensure you have a ventilation strategy as part of your Providers COVID -19 risk assessment
- Consideration needs to be made regarding adequate ventilation and still ensuring thermal comfort for staff and residents
- When residents are in communal areas consider opening the windows in their bedrooms while they are not occupied
- If staff are cold please ensure the provider Uniform policy is not breached (encourage layers underneath the uniform rather than cardigans) staff should be bare below the elbows
- In communal areas if it is too cold to open the windows continuously consider partial opening or intermittent opening to encourage air exchange

Further Information can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928720/S0789_EMG_Role_of_Ventilation_in_Controlling_SARS-CoV-2_Transmission.pdf

3. Training opportunities

Coffee and Engagement Events – Second Wednesday of each month, 2pm-3pm

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Pennine Lancashire Care Provider Forum – No need to book, just use this link to dial in - [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Resources and learning for social care staff - <https://www.reactto.co.uk/> This is also free for all care staff and covers a wide variety to subjects focusing on prevention.

Nutrition & Hydration Resources: on food fortification [here](#), here (Media release BDA endorsed resources Sep 20) [here](#) and e-learning for Community Carers - Hydration in Older People [here](#)

Discussing SLT Solutions/Swallowing Difficulties following COVID. To watch the video please click [here](#)

To watch the NACC national conference on Nutrition and CoVID. 'Can food be thy Medicine' click [here](#)

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.

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.

Please also find the latest [Government guidance on PPE](#) as an illustrated guide for community and social care settings.

Please also find the [CQC guidance](#) to ensure that care settings are compliant with IPC.

5. Domiciliary Care

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

Useful links for the domiciliary care sector (LCC) :

[External link to LCC Covid 19 Site](#)

[External link to the LCC Covid 19 site, that is dom care specific](#)

[External link to LCC Covid 19 webinar](#)

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: [document20210308 Primary Care Briefing from Dr M Dziobon No 178 for circulation \(63 KB\)](#)

For information, please check out the [National guidance for post-acute covid19 assessment clinics](#)

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.

Update NHSX free iPads to care home offer - Support for Care Homes

For technical queries and support relating to how the iPad works, including breakdowns and apps, care homes can contact the Jigsaw24 service desk on: carehomesupport@jigsaw24.com or by phone 03332 409 234. The service desk is open Monday to Friday 08:30 – 18:00 (excluding bank holidays).

‘Getting started with your iPad’ guidance (provided by Jigsaw24) can be found in the Books app on the iPad home screen, and a printed copy has been included in the iPad box. This guidance includes instructions for installing additional apps and using features such as Guided Access.

Care homes can access a range of support materials on the Digital Social Care website here. This webpage includes the below resources, and will be updated regularly as more resources are published:

- Weekly support webinars on iPad set-up and troubleshooting. Webinars can be accessed through Teams on Wednesdays, 2-3 pm here. Webinars run through the set up process and guide care homes through using NHSmail, MS Teams and downloading apps. There is also a Q&A opportunity. We would be grateful for your support in promoting the support webinars to care homes.
- Tips and advice on what care homes can use their iPad for, including useful apps.
- iPad case studies
- Safety and security while using the iPad, including information about completion of the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) and the Better Security, Better Care programme.
- Guidance on using NHSmail and MS Teams with iPads. General guidance can also be found here.
- Information about NHSX’s other offers for care providers, including connectivity deals for care homes.
- Newsletter sign-up – so care homes can keep updated on new support materials as soon as they are available

Barclays Digital Eagles Support for Care Homes - NHSX has been in contact with Barclays about their Digital Eagles skills support for care homes, which includes an offer of free digital skills training delivered through remote training sessions. The Barclays Digital Eagles team is already working with a number of care homes across the country.

Please see the attached flyer for more information. If this is something you would like to find out more about for care homes in your area, please contact the Digital Eagles team directly at: digitaleagleshq@barclays.com

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 has been removed since 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](#).

8. Key dates and information

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Please note: the coffee and chat booking may not be live until sometime next week

Check here for the [dates](#):

HealthWatch Residential care staff survey - please circulate to staff and encourage everyone to respond to this important survey. BwD Healthwatch survey to find out what people's health and social care priorities for our next year's workplan. Healthwatch BwD are still here to listen to your experiences of health and social care and are busy planning our projects for the year ahead. What do you want us to focus on this year in Blackburn with Darwen? Tell us what is important to you in this quick survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SJMJZWK>

9. Spotlight on: our feature about you, your residents, staff and settings!

We have opened a new section which we are calling "Spotlight on". This is an opportunity for you to tell us about what you are doing, news and information about the work you are doing and news or interesting items about you, your residents, staff or settings! Please email us via the email address below. We need items to be received by the Friday before each edition which is published on Mondays!

10. Health and Wellbeing (New section by popular demand)

Have you thought about 20-20-20? Please share this article with staff: www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/uk-55933168 - this is a good reminder to take regular breaks from the computer screen. 20-20-20 relates to every 20 minutes, look at something at least 20ft away (probably something outside your window), for 20 seconds. If you can incorporate standing at the same time and doing a few stretches (although possibly not with your camera on, unless everyone else is joining in!), then that would be good for your back/hips, as well.

Our NHS People - has an amazing range of support, guidance and information for staff health and wellbeing – please do check it out.

Lancashire and South Cumbria Resilience Hub – this is intended as a support resources for all public sector workers and volunteers who have worked through the Covid-19 pandemic and their families. This includes everyone from those who work in the NHS, local authorities and councils, ambulance service staff, care home workers, those working in social care and community workers.

The National Bereavement Service - offers practical and emotional support to guide you through what needs to be done. We can introduce the bereaved to trusted partner organisations in both private and charitable sectors, as well as provide information on the statutory requirements following loss, such as the registration of death and probate.

RESTORE2™ is a physical deterioration and escalation tool for care/nursing homes – all information is here: westhampshireccg.nhs.uk/restore2/

CCG Health & Wellbeing Bulletins – you can access the support that is available in these bulletins including free health and wellbeing classes:

[Month 4: February Edition](#)

[Month 3 : January Edition](#)

[Month 2 : December Edition](#)

[Self Care Week: Special Edition](#)

[Month 1: November Edition](#)

Mental Health Family Hour – monthly talks on mental health and wellbeing live streamed on YouTube and via social media. For more information: www.lscft.nhs.uk/mental-health-family-hour

And finally:

Queries? Contact elccg.regulatedcareprogramme@nhs.net

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

Facebook us: @PennineLancashireRegulatedCareProviders Community group