

## This week: 25th January 2021

### 1. News & updates

**Care home testing update: Lateral Flow Device (LFDs) approval for self-test granted (Department of Health & Social Care) – [see attached for full update](#)**

**National COVID-19 in vaccinated individuals 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](mailto:PHE.vaccines@nhs.net)

**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>

**Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG) and the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) response to misinformation circulating about the impact of Covid-19 vaccines on fertility.** In response to this misinformation, the RCOG and RCM would like to make the following statements. Dr Edward Morris, President at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said: "We want to reassure women that there is no evidence to suggest that Covid-19 vaccines will affect fertility. Claims of any effect of Covid-19 vaccination on fertility are speculative and not supported by any data. There is no biologically plausible mechanism by which current vaccines would cause any impact on

women's fertility. Evidence has not been presented that women who have been vaccinated have gone on to have fertility problems. For women in the age group where they may be considering pregnancy, the vaccination is only currently being offered to two groups - health and social care workers (including carers for older adults in residential care homes) who are at higher risk of catching Covid-19 and those with serious medical conditions who have a greater risk of severe illness from Covid-19. Pregnant and breastfeeding women who are eligible will also be offered the vaccine". RCM Chief Executive Gill Walton said: "If you are eligible for and have been offered a Covid-19 vaccine, the decision whether to have the vaccination is your choice. You can either have the vaccine or wait for more information about the vaccine. Women who are eligible for the vaccination should consider discussing any concerns they have with their midwife or healthcare professional. The RCOG and RCM would also like to emphasise to all women in this group (and all others) the importance of practicing social distancing, wearing a mask and regular handwashing." The two Royal Colleges have produced an [information sheet](#) to help pregnant women who are eligible for and have been offered vaccination make an informed choice. Please also read our [Q&As](#) on COVID-19 vaccination, pregnancy and breastfeeding.

[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](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

#### GPN & HWCS Conference

**Coffee and engagement sessions** - the next one is on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](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 \(2.17 MB\)](#)

Join us for our coffee and engagement sessions - the next one is on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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>

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](mailto:care@lancashire.gov.uk)

## 6. Primary Care

The latest primary care bulletin for local GP practices in Pennine Lancashire (issued 25th January 2021)

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](mailto: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>.

Pennine Lancashire NHS Mail Activations - From the NHSmail Regional call 16/12/2020 - PL Providers are currently at 83% activation rate across both East Lancs and BwD. This is very good and represents Pennine Lancashire being 16 points ahead of the national average which is around 67%.

**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](mailto: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](#)

#### 8. Key dates and information

Join us for our coffee and engagement sessions - the next one is on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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>

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/>

Frailty Support and information:

Here's a link to a page with different resources about living with frailty - [What is frailty? | Age UK](#)

But what might be more useful for carers is the practical guide to healthy ageing - [Age UK and NHS A Guide To Healthy Ageing.pdf \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Rospa falls hub which has a lot of useful information with regard to both falls prevention and strength and balance exercises for older people [www.rospa.com/falls](http://www.rospa.com/falls)

Here's a nice guide that the University of Manchester created: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/coronavirus-response/coronavirus-home-learning/keeping-well-at-home-guide/>

### [The National Learning Disability Important Easy Read Documents](#)

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](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/COVID_VCC)

### **And finally:**

Queries? Contact [elccg.regulatedcareprogramme@nhs.net](mailto:elccg.regulatedcareprogramme@nhs.net)

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

Facebook us: @PennineLancashireRegulatedCareProviders Community group

### **Previous editions:**