

This week: 14th December 2020

1. News & updates

Vaccination Programme - Care homes – message from Helen Whately, Minister for Social Care (available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccinations-and-care-homes-programme-launch/covid-19-vaccinations-and-care-homes-programme-launch>)

In preparation care home managers should:

- put together staff lists, including basic details (name, gender, date of birth, NHS number, GP details) for each staff member
- be ready to provide each staff member with a letter confirming their employment in the care sector
- keep staff records of vaccinations and report via the Capacity Tracker (as you do with flu vaccination)
- consider the covid-secure logistics of releasing staff to receive their vaccine, while maintaining staffing levels within their home. Practical and implementable plans should be in place from early next week
- take steps now to ensure that staff understand need for obtaining consent, so that they in turn can help residents and families to complete the necessary forms when a vaccine is ready to be delivered within a care home. Once issued, these forms will provide additional information about the vaccine they are receiving

Vitamin D for clinically extremely vulnerable individuals and care home residents - dont forget to look out for the Government guidance and letter on this when it comes!

Government Care Home Visiting Arrangements Guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes#indoor-visiting>

Coffee and engagement evening - 9th December 2020 - 2 slots - 6- 7 pm and then 7.30 - 8:30 pm. To register go to our event page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-coffee-engagement-2-online-sessions-to-support-the-care-sector-tickets-131484847719>

Your NHS needs you - We are recruiting NOW to help deliver the COVID-19 vaccine. The release of a COVID-19 vaccination is highly anticipated. When available, it will be our best defence against the virus alongside washing your hands, wearing a mask and effective social distancing. With clinical trials progressing well, we are working with colleagues across the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to millions of at-risk people across the country as soon as they are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulation Agency (MHRA), the official UK regulator. Vaccinating people as quickly as possible will require recruiting lots more staff, to ensure that the NHS can continue to provide other vital services that our patients are relying on. Coordinated by East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, we are now recruiting to a range of roles across East Lancashire and Blackburn With Darwen. We need people to work in a variety of locations across Lancashire and South Cumbria to vaccinate eligible groups of people. You will be employed on a flexible basis, paid for the hours that you work and have the opportunity to work a variety of different shift lengths and patterns. Vaccine centres will operate from 8am-8pm, 7 days per week. In all roles, appropriate training, supervision and PPE will be provided to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers and patients. For more information on how to apply go to the website of East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust who are coordinating the recruitment activity for the area. If you know a registered nurse, doctor

or pharmacist who has recently left the profession or retired but may be interested in helping the vaccination effort, then please share this with them. Go to: <https://www.elht.nhs.uk/joinvaccineteam>

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

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.

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

Visiting guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home/visits-out-of-care-homes>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

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>

3. Training opportunities

Medicines Management Care Homes 1 & 2 e-learning packages - are aimed at all care home staff involved with managing medicines. They are the first of several planned e-learning packages for Care Homes. You can access them here: <https://www.elmmb.nhs.uk/resource-centre/e-learning-hub/>

Psychological First Aid for nursing teams working within the care home sector - the RCN Foundation are calling for teams to apply for funding into Psychological First Aid for nursing teams working within the care home sector throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The link is: <https://rcnfoundation.rcn.org.uk/latest-news/funding-call> Please contact Sarah McGloin for further details: **Sarah McGloin, Head of Grants and Impact, RCN Foundation**, Tel: 0207 647 3708, Email: sarah.mcglain@rcn.org.uk, www.rcnfoundation.org.uk

Educational Grants for Nurses working in Care Homes and Adult Social Care- up to £1000 – the QNI supports Continuing Professional Development for care home nurses as a way of promoting high quality care. If you want to do a short course or module and need financial support then please apply! We are particularly supporting programmes in wound management including leg ulcer management although all courses would be considered. You can apply online at: <https://www.qni.org.uk/help-for-nurses/educational-grants/educational-grant-application/> Or download a form at : <https://www.qni.org.uk/help-for-nurses/educational-grants/> If you would like to discuss further, please contact joanne.moorby@qni.org.uk

End of Life Care

Advance Care Planning – see guidance for Care Homes and Pennine Lancashire document

- SHADOW Tool – see attached information
- SHADOW Training available via telemed laptop or own device

Tuesday and Thursday 2.00-3.00pm accessible from <https://meet.medio.link/webapp/> (**MUST BE ACCESSED VIA GOOGLE CHROME**)

Access code: 512005 No need to book, just dial in.

****IMPORTANT ****Primary Care – Please complete **EPaCCs** template on EMIS for EoLC patients – for more information ; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electronic-palliative-care-co-ordination-systems-epaccs>

4. IPC/PPE

IPC Advice – Christmas Gifts for Residents and Service Users - We are fast approaching Christmas and understand resident's families and friends will be contacting you for advice on how to get gifts and presents to their loved ones. Pennine Lancs Regulated Care Cell has a few tips and advice on how we can safely allow the sharing of presents this year. There is no specific guidance but if you take a sensible IPC transmission based approach then it is really simple;

- If you are self isolating or positive in your household I would recommend not handling / wrapping gifts that cannot be wiped. Consider sending a gift via the store / amazon etc

- If you are well and buying a gift there is no problem
- There is no evidence of Covid transmission on shopping products and many months ago PHE stated that supermarket shopping did not need to be wiped and disinfected when taken into a house
- The important message is to wash your hands – family members should wash their hands before wrapping a gift and the resident should wash their hands after opening and handling the gift.
- Homemade foods from a family to a resident such as mince pies, cake etc are absolutely welcomed for the residents.
- Avoid homemade foods that require refrigeration but if eaten during a visit then this is perfectly acceptable – many residents want to enjoy their family members special food as a treat.

Covid is spread through contact – contaminating hands – then touching mucous membranes of eyes nose or mouth. It is not absorbed through the skin, therefore encourage hand washing

If you would like any further advice please do not hesitate to contact elccg.regulatedcareprogramme@nhs.net

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

- External link to LCC Covid 19 Site: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/health-and-social-care/care-serviceprovider-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-serviceprovider-engagement/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-care-providers/homecare/>
- External link to LCC Covid 19 webinar : <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/health-and-social-care/care-serviceprovider-engagement/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-care-providers/localcommunications-to-providers-and-service-users/covid-19-provider-engagementwebinars/>
- General/contractual queries re dom care services and Covid 19 can be sent through to: care@lancashire.gov.uk

6. Primary Care

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/> and downloadable [here](#).

Please see attached a briefing on the new virtual covid ward developed by the GPs in Pennine Lancashire: [Virtual Covid Ward Stakeholder Briefing](#)

7. Digital, IT and data

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](#)

8. Key dates and information

Coffee and engagement evenings – full schedule – next meeting is 13th January 2021 and the start times are 5.30 pm and 7 pm

Please see below for the time/dates of the Coffee and Engagement evenings along with the link-

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

5.30-6.30pm 10/12/2020 13/01/2021 10/02/2021 10/03/2021 14/04/2021 12/05/2021
7.00 -8.00pm 10/12/2020 13/01/2021 10/02/2021 10/03/2021 14/04/2021 12/05/2021

East Lancashire Hospice – Cuppa and Covid – support for caring professionals (see flyer)

Families, carers and staff surveys - Healthwatch BwD is keen to understand the views of families and carers as well as your views and experiences of working in a local residential care home since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic - both what has worked well and the challenges you have faced. Please share with staff and colleagues to let us know your thoughts through this short, anonymous survey. These are for East Lancashire as well as BwD care homes:

Families/carers survey link - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DKR3ZMR>

Staff survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F37VV7N>

The CCG Regulated Care Sector Team have 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 :

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[Issue No 3, 20th November 2020](#)

[Issue No 2, 13th November 2020](#)

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