

Adult Social Care Provider Webinar

Friday 5th February 2021

Welcome and Introductions

Tony Pounder

Welcome and introductions

Purpose of webinar: key messages and updates, both national and local

Reminders:

- Fortnightly webinar for providers on Fridays, 1-2/2.30 p.m. Potentially schedule in weekly, dependent on developments and the need to quickly share key messages.
- Provider portal: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/health-and-social-care/care-service-provider-engagement/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-care-providers/>

Today's Agenda

1-2.30pm

- National lockdown update
- Vaccination Update (Joanne Reed and Abdul Razaq)
- Testing Update (Tony Pounder)
- Finance Updates (Tony Pounder):
 - LFD fund
 - Workforce Capacity Fund
 - Infection Control Fund
 - LCC Fee Setting
- Daytime Supports Update (Tony Pounder)

Today's Agenda (cont)

- EU settlement for staff (Tony Pounder)
- IPC update (Tanya Shaw)
- PPE update (Ellen Smith)
- Staffing contingency planning - good practice (Ellen Smith /Nichola Morris)
- Care Capacity Tracker Update (Nichola Morris)
- Regular updates; national and local guidance, etc (Kieran Curran)

National lockdown update

- [National lockdown](#) is ongoing
- Lockdown review is the week of 15th February
- South African Variant – Email from CEO of Sefton Council
 - The South African variant of Covid-19 has been detected in Sefton, specifically within the Southport area. Additional testing for anyone who lives or works in the affected area will be arranged.
 - This is not the whole of Southport; mainly the Norwood Ward.
 - At present, there is no evidence to suggest that this variant is any more severe than others, but to suppress the onward spread of the virus, Sefton Council will be conducting extra testing for anybody living within their PR9 postcode area.

Vaccination Updates

Joanne Reed and Abdul Razaq

Vaccination Update

- Details of organisations employing frontline Health and Social Care Staff were shared a couple of weeks ago with our NHS colleagues.
- We continue to review and approve new requests from organisations who think they are eligible under the current priority cohort of frontline health and social care staff.
- We contacted all those on our list a few days ago to check on progress and were pleased with the response.
- We will be following up with NHS colleagues on behalf of those providers who still have staff outstanding.
- Letters to Direct Payment recipients with information to share with their Personal Assistants were issued earlier this week.
- We would urge you to continue to have conversations with staff who are still unsure about getting the vaccine.
- Information on priority groups to be vaccinated can be found [here](#)

Vaccination Update cont...

- Provide accurate information on daily calls re: vaccination uptake or when you are self-inputting into the NECS tracker. Care homes have been providing this information for a few weeks now.
- Vaccination questions now also live for homecare staff on the daily calls and NECS tracker.

Vaccination Update cont...

- A letter went out from LCC on 1st February, entitled 'Covid-19 vaccinations for staff working in care settings' – [link](#)
- The letter details how to book a vaccination, shares advice on getting vaccinated and gives information about the vaccine and why the vaccination programme is important for both staff and for the people whom they care for
- Records indicate that a very high % of care home staff have received the vaccine to date

Vaccination Update cont...

- DHSC has issued a letter to providers of CQC regulated adult social care services, entitled: **COVID-19 Vaccination of Social Care Workers - the next stage** (this will be uploaded to the portal)
- The letter primarily reiterates the importance of the ongoing completion of the Capacity Tracker to ensure that accurate and up to date information is available re:
 - how many people need to have the vaccination
 - have been offered a vaccination and
 - how many have had it

Direct Payments and Vaccination

- Personal Assistants – staff who are employed by people who receive a Direct Payment – **are eligible** for the vaccine programme and have been identified by the government as a priority group of frontline social care workers.
- The county council is now directly contacting people who receive a Direct Payment to identify their PAs for vaccination and ensure that they are included in the programme.
- We will share a copy of the letter on the provider portal.

Covid Vaccination

Abdul Razaq

Interim Consultant in Public Health

05.02.2021

COVID Vaccination – How has the Covid-19 vaccine been developed and approved so quickly?

- Lots of people have volunteered for vaccine trials so recruitment has been quicker.
- The vaccine technology has been under development for many years (because of other coronaviruses – e.g. [SARS-CoV responsible for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome \(SARS\) outbreak](#) in 2003, [MERS-CoV responsible for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome](#)) therefore the vaccine could be developed faster and more was known about the safety profile from the start.
- Scientists in China identified and shared the genetic sequence of the new coronavirus early on. Therefore the genetic code for the virus could be slotted into the vaccine technology that had already been developed.
- High financial investment and political commitment.
- The different phases of the vaccine development have overlapped to speed up the process.
- The manufacture of the vaccine was carried out alongside the trials hoping that they would succeed.
- Normally the data is delivered to regulators by the development company all in one go. In the case of the Covid-19 vaccine they have done a ‘rolling review’ so information was released to the regulators as it was obtained.

COVID Vaccination – How do I know that the vaccine is safe?

- All vaccines undergo rigorous testing and the Covid-19 vaccine is no different.
- There are 3 phases of testing:
 - Phase 1: the vaccine is given to a small number of young, healthy adult volunteers to check that it's safe, that it stimulates the immune system and what the right dose is.
 - Phase 2: the vaccine is given to 100s of volunteers to further check safety and the ability to generate an immune response. Volunteers have the same characteristics (e.g. age, sex) as the people intended to receive the vaccine. There are usually multiple trials in this phase to evaluate different age groups and different formulations of the vaccine to receive the vaccine. Usually a group that didn't receive the vaccine is included as a comparison group to check whether any changes are due to the vaccine or chance.
 - Phase 3: the vaccine is given to 1000s of volunteers and compared to a similar group who didn't receive the vaccine. This is done to determine whether the vaccine is effective against the disease and to check its safety in a larger group of people. Phase 3 trials are carried out in multiple countries at multiple sites to make sure that it is safe and effective in different populations.

COVID Vaccination – How do I know that the vaccine is safe?

- During phases 2 and 3 the volunteers and scientists don't know who has received the vaccine. This means that they can't influence the assessment of effectiveness or safety.
- The data from the clinical trials is reviewed for effectiveness, quality and safety before being given to the population. In the UK this is done by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). It must be assessed as safe and effective across a broad population.
- Once the vaccine is in use it will continue to be monitored for safety. People who receive the vaccine are asked to report side effects through the Yellow Card scheme.

COVID Vaccination – Pregnancy and Fertility

Edward Morris, President at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/news/RCOG-and-RCM-respond-to-misinformation-around-Covid-19-vaccine-and-fertility/>

“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.

COVID Vaccination – Pregnancy and Fertility

Royal College Midwifery Chief Executive Gill Walton

“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.”

COVID Vaccination – Pregnancy Information Leaflet





Version 1: Published 12 January 2021

I am pregnant and have been offered a COVID-19 vaccination. What are my options?

Vaccination is being offered to some pregnant women including health and social care workers and those with high risk medical conditions

Trials testing the vaccine in pregnant and breastfeeding women have not yet been completed. Whether to get the vaccine in pregnancy is your choice. The information below will help you make an informed choice about whether to get the COVID-19 vaccine if you are pregnant or trying to get pregnant.

Your options:

-  **Get a COVID-19 vaccine**
- or
-  **Wait for more information about the vaccine in pregnancy**

Who can be vaccinated?

COVID-19 vaccination is only offered to two groups of pregnant women:

1. Those with high risk medical conditions (clinically extremely vulnerable) who have a **greater risk of severe illness** from COVID-19
2. Health or social care workers – who are at **very high risk of catching COVID-19**

Underlying medical conditions include:

- organ transplant
- currently undergoing cancer treatment
- bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the last 6 months
- significant lung condition, e.g. cystic fibrosis or severe asthma
- conditions that significantly increases the risk of infection, e.g. severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) or homozygous sickle cell disease
- currently taking medication to suppress your immune system, sufficient to increase the risk of infection
- conditions affecting your spleen, including: having your spleen removed
- Down's syndrome
- significant kidney conditions and/or on dialysis
- significant heart conditions; or
- your hospital doctor or GP feels that there are other reasons why you may get more severe illness if you develop COVID-19

If you are not a health or social care worker and do not have any of these medical conditions, then you will not currently be offered vaccination during pregnancy.

What are the benefits of the vaccination?

- ✓ **COVID-19 may be more dangerous in pregnancy**
Studies have shown that hospital admission and severe illness may be more common in pregnant women (compared to those not pregnant), especially those in the third trimester of pregnancy, and that preterm birth is more likely (compared to pregnant women without COVID-19). Pregnant women with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk of severe illness.
- ✓ **Vaccination is effective in preventing COVID-19 infection**
- ✓ **You cannot get COVID-19 from vaccination**
 - COVID-19 vaccines do NOT contain live coronavirus
 - Vaccines do NOT contain any additional ingredients that are harmful to pregnant women or their babies
 - Other non-live vaccines (whooping cough, influenza) are considered to be safe for pregnant women and their unborn babies.

What are the risks of the vaccination?

- ✗ **The COVID-19 vaccines have not yet been tested specifically in pregnant women**
 - COVID-19 vaccines have been given to large numbers of people to ensure they meet stringent standards of effectiveness and safety.
 - Insufficient evidence is available for pregnant women, although available data do not indicate any safety concern or harm to pregnancy. More information may come from studies in the future.
 - We do not know whether the vaccine works as well in pregnancy.
 - We do not know whether there are unique downsides in pregnancy, like different side effects, an increased risk of miscarriage or problems with the baby's development
- ✗ **Side effects from the vaccine are common. These do not affect pregnancy, but may include:**
 - injection site reactions (sore arm)
 - muscle pain
 - fever, chills
 - joint pain
 - fatigue
 - headache

- ? If you think that you may be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, please discuss this with your hospital doctor or midwife.
- 📄 If you decide to have a COVID-19 vaccine, please tell the vaccination team that you are pregnant so that this can be recorded.

Further information, Q&As, and the latest version of this leaflet are available at rcog.org.uk/coronavirus-pregnancy

Vaccination Resources

- National COVID vaccination resources – explainer videos - <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/explainer-videos/>
- JCVI explainer
- Oxford vaccine explainers
- Jonathan Van-Tam - questions
- Vaccine for Health and Social Care Workers (HSCW)
- Healthier Lancashire has the following resources:
 - Videos - <https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/CovidVaccination/videos>
 - Case Studies - <https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/CovidVaccination/case-studies>
 - FAQ's - <https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/CovidVaccination/faqs>

Testing Updates

Tony Pounder

Lateral Flow Device (LFDs) approval for self-test granted

Care homes only

Staff are now able to take and register their twice weekly LFD tests at home, before they arrive at the care home to start work (these are the same LFD kits that you have been using previously).

Online replenishment portal launched w/c 1st February, which will allow you to place an order for LFDs in the same way as you have for PCR (and you still continue to order these for repeat staff and resident testing) but instead, you would select LFD from the dropdown.

All care home staff members that are using LFD tests must have completed the training on the NHS Test and Trace online training portal. The training videos last about 15 minutes followed by a competency assessment.

Link: <https://go.tessello.co.uk/TestDeviceTraining/>

Token: 3wkcVi4UTX

Please share the published self-test guidance to all your staff members who will be testing at home. It is the care home manager's responsibility to maintain records of the kits that are distributed, including the LOT number, which can be located on the box of 25 LFD tests. You can find the self-test guidance at the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955242/care-home-lfd-self-test-guidance-v22-01.pdf

All lateral flow device tests must be registered (whether positive, indeterminate/void, or negative) as a legal requirement at:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Day Services Testing

Submit an application through the self-referral portal here:

<https://request-onboarding.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>

- These submissions are sent to LAs by the Test and Trace policy team.
- LAs confirm or reject that they are who they say they are
- If accepted, Test and Trace email the day-care centre to give them a Unique Organisation Number (UON) to be able to place orders

LFD homecare pilot

- 5 providers and 2 consortia are taking part in the Lateral Flow Test Homecare Pilot.
- Lateral Flow Test kits are being delivered to providers on the pilot in the next few days for testing to start w/c 8th Feb.
- Learning from the pilot will be applied when rolling out to all home care services, which is expected in the next 6 weeks; this may be brought forward.
- Thank you to providers taking part in the pilot.
- Communication has been sent to Personal Assistants to provide them access to Lateral Flow Tests.

119

- Coronavirus Testing national help centre – reached by dialling 119
- Report any issues with deliveries, delayed results to this helpline
- Make sure you select the right option to get through to the care home team – choose option 1 when asked “If you are calling because you have an upcoming hospital procedure, or from an organisation who receives test kits directly from the national testing programme, press 1”
- DHSC reported wk beginning 4th Jan 83.95% of results returned within 72 hour target.
- If you have results delayed past 72 hours, please call 119 and let us know also at . 119 may not be able to help if not over 5 days
- When speaking to 119 ask for operator name and when they will call you back.

Finance Updates

DHSC Adult Social Care:

- Rapid Testing Fund
- Staffing Fund
- Infection Control Fund

LCC Fee Setting

Tony Pounder

Rapid Testing Fund Update

- DHSC Rapid Testing Grant for Providers - £4.1M for Lancashire
- Letters went out last Friday, offering the care home sector a share of the 80% (£3.3M) of this grant mandated to go to Care homes
- Based on a formula of £253 per bed
- Number of care homes taking up testing option has gone up to according to Tracker (presumably some new decisions based on the offer of money)
- So good news so far – although not all have agreed to the money yet

Rapid Testing Fund Current Position

- Out of 436 care homes who have had letters offering them money from this grant:
 - **166** have replied accepting
 - **3** have replied saying no thanks
 - **267** have not replied
 - On the tracker it shows **289** (81.6%) care homes are now doing Lateral Flow Tests

(date of data 04.02.21)

Rapid Testing Fund Update

Con't

- Further 20% of funding (discretionary element) to be allocated as follows:
 - £50K to be reserved for use of Public Health-funded services (eg Refuges, homelessness services) details still be worked on by;
 - £50K to be held in reserve as contingency for groups (eg Pas) in case of new initiatives;
 - Options still being explored for spending remaining share of the 20% (about £700K + anything unspent in other categories)
 - But default option will be to further distribute to those care homes who are already in receipt of a share of the 80% Grant and signed up to Grant Conditions and clear evidence of compliance.

Workforce Capacity Fund for ASC

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workforce-capacity-fund-for-adult-social-care/workforce-capacity-fund-for-adult-social-care>

Purpose:

- The purpose of this funding is to enable local authorities to deliver measures to supplement and strengthen adult social care staff capacity to ensure that safe and continuous care is achieved to deliver the following outcomes:
 - maintain care provision and continuity of care for recipients where pressing workforce shortages may put this at risk
 - support providers to restrict staff movement between care homes and other care settings in all but exceptional circumstances, which is critical for managing the risk of outbreaks and infection in care homes
 - support safe and timely hospital discharges to a range of care environments including domiciliary care, to prevent or address delays as a result of workforce shortages enable care providers to care for new service users where need arises

Workforce Capacity Fund for ASC (cont)

- Local authorities can use this funding to support all providers of adult social care in their area including residential and domiciliary care, care providers with which local authorities do not have contracts, and organisations providing care and support who may not be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Day care, short stay care services and supporting the capacity of the personal assistant workforce are also included.
- This is a new fund, separate to the second Infection Control Fund (ICF2) and Rapid Testing Fund. It will further help the care sector respond to the workforce challenges posed by COVID-19 and will be paid directly to local authorities in England. This funding is available up to 31 March 2021.
- LCC will be sending out a letter to providers with further details.

Workforce Capacity Fund Rationale

- Workforce funding is aimed at increasing capacity in the market
 - Funding needs to be directed to where capacity is required
 - Outbreaks / size of home do not automatically translate to capacity required
 - Sickness levels have been used as a proxy for where capacity is needed – absence has to be covered
 - It is vital to complete the trackers as it is a fundamental source of information to responding to the pandemic.
 - January tracker information has been used to calculate workforce funding allocations. Providers not completing the tracker regularly have not been allocated funding (minimum weekly entries required).

Calculation

- Organisation categorised into sectors according to CQC registration details:
 - Supported Living Provider
 - Nursing Home
 - Residential Home
 - Community Provider
- Sickness data has been analysed across all sectors and used to rank sectors:
- Highest sickness = rank 1 = highest priority sector = highest funding per employee. Lowest sickness = rank 4 = lowest priority sector = base level funding per employee.
- Nursing sickness data has been adjusted to account for the increased cost of employing nurses.
- Laing Buisson Fair for Care used to guide pay premium, agency usage and proportion of care delivery relating to nursing time.

Calculation

- No adjustments made to sectors where nurses not employed and the care delivery workforce is national living wage (or close to).
- Using the sickness data, the total workforce funding has been split in to 4 to match the priority groups:
 - Base Level funding to all organisations
 - Premium payable to sectors in priority 1-3
 - Premium payable to sectors in priority group 1-2
 - Premium payable to sectors in Priority group 1
- In turn, the funding has been allocated to organisations based on the number of employees recorded in their tracker data. SERVICE USER NUMBERS / BED NUMBERS are not relevant to the calculation.

Funding Breakdown

SECTOR	£ Per Person Employed	SECTOR FUNDING
NURSING	£180.00	£1,251,180.00
RESIDENTIAL	£95.00	£716,965.00
SUPPORTED LIVING	£80.00	£259,520.00
COMMUNITY	£75.00	£439,800.00
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED		£2,667,465
Retained for LCC initiatives		£91,611
TOTAL LANCASHIRE FUND		£2,759,076

Infection Control Grant

- Please continue to submit your monthly returns to the contract management team:
contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk
- Local authorities are required to provide monthly returns to the DHSC to report on monthly spend.

Fee Setting Update

- <https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/documents/s177065/Report.pdf>
- A report setting out the County Council's proposed fee uplifts for ASC services for 2021-22 was approved at LCC cabinet on 04/02/2021
- The uplifts will come into effect from 5th April 2021

Day Time Supports

Tony Pounder

Support for DTS providers

- **Income Support Grant** for independent sector day service providers
- Similar process to ICF grant – pro rata allocation
- 'Current Status Survey' sent to all providers, 26/01/2021
- Return with requested information to opt in to the scheme by today, 05/02/2021
- If not received the survey please contact jared.williamson@lancashire.gov.uk ASAP



Heather Booth

EU Settlement Scheme (Tony Pounder)

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>



Heather Booth

- EU/EEA/Swiss Adults & their Families need to apply by 30th June 2021 – for access to:
- Public Services - Healthcare/Schools
- Public Funds & Pensions

They need to apply even if -

- They were born in the UK but are not a British citizen
- have a UK 'permanent residence document'
- are a family member of an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen who does not need to apply - including if they are from Ireland
- are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen with a British citizen family member



Heather Booth

Contact Details

eusettlementstatus@Lancashire.gov.uk

Heather Booth

EU Exit Support Officer

Heather.booth@Lancashire.gov.uk

IPC updates

Tanya Shaw

IPC Update - Vaccine

CARE **NHS**

The Covid-19 vaccine is rolling out to care home workers

Care home workers can now get the MHRA approved vaccine. Remember, you need two doses to be protected from Covid-19, so you can keep caring for others.

You'll be contacted when it's your turn.
Find out more at nhs.uk/CovidVaccine

We encourage you all to be vaccinated...

PPE - reminder

- We are aware that there is some complacency with PPE from reports we have received.
- Please reiterate donning and doffing techniques with your staff team.
- PPE is there to protect the worker as much as the resident.
- Essential part in breaking the chain of infection.

Donning PPE

- 1** Perform hand hygiene before putting on PPE.



- 2** Put on apron and tie at waist.



- 3** Put on facemask – position upper straps on the crown of your head, lower strap at nape of neck.



- 4** With both hands, mould the metal strap over the bridge of your nose.



- 5** Don eye protection if required.



- 6** Put on gloves.



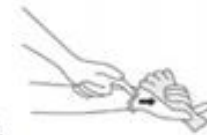
Doffing PPE

- 1** Remove gloves. Grasp the outside of glove with the opposite gloved hand; peel off. Hold the removed glove in the remaining gloved hand.



Slide the fingers of the un-gloved hand under the remaining glove at the wrist.

Peel the remaining glove off over the first glove and discard.



- 2** Clean hands.



- 3** Apron.

Unfasten or break apron ties at the neck and let the apron fold down on itself.



Break ties at waist and fold apron in on itself – do not touch the outside – **this will be contaminated.** Discard.



- 4** Remove eye protection if worn. Use both hands to handle the straps by pulling away from face and discard.



- 5** Clean hands.



- 6** Remove facemask once your clinical work is completed.



Untie or break bottom ties, followed by top ties or elastic, and remove by handling the ties only. Lean forward slightly. Discard. **DO NOT** reuse once removed.

- 7** Clean hands with soap and water.



Post Infection Reviews

- Please return the PIR back to IPC Team via email.
- Provides you with the opportunity to reflect on anything that could've been done differently or gone better.
- Not judged! No blame!
- Valued opportunity for learning lessons which are used in variety of infections.

Updated Guidance

Guidance

COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings

Updated 28 January 2021

Includes a new section on lateral flow antigen testing in asymptomatic health and social care staff (section 7).

Updated Guidance

- Staff who have previously tested positive in the past 90 days are exempt from re-testing (section 6 in the guidance).
- Despite this advice, some staff may be offered and accept an LFD Test as part of the asymptomatic testing programme.

Updated Guidance

- Staff who have regular LFD Testing as part of asymptomatic testing and test positive should be isolated immediately, (along with household contacts) and arrange to have a PCR test.
- If PCR is negative, isolation can cease and staff can return to work.
- If PCR is positive then continue with isolation for 10 days (including household contacts).

Confused?

- Further clarification is being sought as we are aware that there is a disparity with the guidance.
- Essentially please follow National Guidance – if staff wish to re-join the LFD Testing regime following a positive LFD then they must self isolate again.

Shift Covid Champion/Coordinator

- Do you have one in your care home?
- What role could they assist you with daily?
- Reminders to socially distance?
- Checking PPE compliance and donning and doffing?
- Assisting with LFD Tests? Visitors (when permitted)?
- Ensure cleaning is audited?
- Auditing high touch areas?
- Taking IPC Calls?

Any queries?

Please email:

infectionprevention@lancashire.gov.uk

(Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm)

PPE update

Ellen Smith

LCC PPE Team Update

- As of the 1st March 2021, we will only be supplying **GVS NON VALVED FFP₃ MASKS.**
- Cardinal Valved Masks are no longer being supplied and this is now our preferred option.
- It will mean that Parties that are currently being supplied Cardinal, will no doubt have to have their staff re-fitted for the GVS mask.
- They will have to source their own FFT as we are unable to provide this service currently.

DHSC - PPE update for unpaid carers

- Free PPE is being made available to unpaid carers who do not live with the people they care for
- SAGE recommends PPE to be worn by extra-resident unpaid carers
- Distribution routes are in the process of being set up to support delivery to unpaid carers
- More than half of local authorities, including Lancashire County Council, have already signed up to assist with provision

PPE Updates

- **THE DHSC has extended the distribution of free PPE through the PPE until the end of June 2021.**
- Eligible health and social care providers can continue to order PPE through the portal to meet the increased need arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest guidance on the PPE Portal, including weekly order limits for different types and sizes of provider, can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ppe-portal-how-to-order-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment>
- Registered providers can call the customer service team on 0800 876 6802 if they have any questions about using the PPE Portal. The team is available from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week, to help resolve queries.

Staffing Contingency Planning (Ellen and Nichola)

- Recent patterns emerging in outbreaks within both homes and supported living settings is the speed at which staff are returning positive results (both LFD and PCR) and having to isolate, leaving homes with severely reduced staffing levels.
- It has become increasingly difficult to source staff from agencies due to the number of homes in outbreak in the same area.

Contingency Planning

- It is vital that as soon as you go into an outbreak you begin to deploy your staffing contingency plan which may consist of:
 - staff taking on additional shifts
 - reconfiguring rotas/ shift patterns (overstaffing)
 - asking staff to cancel leave
 - upskilling key staff to deliver key roles, e.g – medication training
 - Having contact details for agencies
 - Block booking agency staff over the outbreak period/ backing with agency staff over the outbreak period.
- Please continue to flag issues re staffing via your daily capacity tracker calls
- The Covid Outbreak Support team and Contract Management teams can support you with staff contingency planning.

Care Capacity Tracker (Nichola Morris)

- In the next couple of weeks there will be some extra questions being asked to care homes on one of your daily calls, this will either be the 15th or 22nd February. It will be a short 3 question survey regarding the online ordering of medication by proxy and the support you may require to implement this
- PCR testing for Day Care Service staff is being rolled out, to capture which Day Care Services are accessing the testing we will be adding the following questions to the daily tracker calls:
 - When did you last order your test kits as part of the staff repeat testing?
 - When did you last distribute staff test kits to your staff?
- **Please can we also remind you to give as much information as possible around testing and vaccination uptake.**

National and Local Updates

Kieran Curran

**All new and updated national
adult social care guidance
available on the Portal under:
Government, NHS and NW
ADASS advice and guidance**

COVID-19 Online Resources

- [Care Quality Commission info for providers](#)
- [Social Care Institute for Excellence](#)
- [Health Education England coronavirus programme](#)
- [ADASS Best Practice Tips on Mental Health](#)

New National Guidance

- [COVID-19: rapid point of care \(near-person\) testing for service providers](#) – describes the main types of coronavirus tests currently available for use in point of care (near-person) settings. Published on 1 February
- [Instructions for COVID-19 self-test](#) – these new instructions published last week explain how to:
 - prepare the test
 - collect a sample from yourself or a child
 - process the sample, and
 - read and report the result

Updated National Guidance

- [NHS Test and Trace in the workplace](#) – updated section on when to contact your local health protection team. Updated 2 February
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): admission and care of people in care homes](#) – includes updated information on testing staff and residents in care homes in reference to staff testing and special arrangements for people who work in the NHS. Updated 29 January
- [COVID-19 vaccination: care home and healthcare settings posters](#) – updated COVID-19 vaccination first phase priority groups poster. Updated 27 January

New Local Guidance

Fire Safety in Residential Care and Nursing Homes: Evacuation and Pre-Planning

- A new 7-minute briefing produced by the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
- Ensure your Fire Risk Assessment is up to date
- Ensure every resident has a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP)
- Resources and where to go for more help
- Published on the LSAB website and sent to providers

Remote monitoring using pulse oximetry in care homes

CCG Webinar on 9 February 1-2 p.m.

- Hear about how the NHS is supporting the use of remote monitoring of residents using pulse oximetry, how this works in care homes, and the range of support and learning materials on offer
- There will be an opportunity to ask questions and the session will be recorded for those unable to attend on the day
- The webinar will be held on Tuesday 9 February, 1-2 p.m. and you can [register here](#)

Update on ENRICH – Enabling Research in Care Homes

- The PRINCIPLE Trial – aims to find ways to keep residents with COVID-19 out of hospital. This study has been given Urgent Public Health status
- *How Care Homes Can Prepare for Future COVID-19 Outbreaks* – policy briefing on how care homes can prepare for future outbreaks [now available](#).
- COVID-19 Care Home Dementia Study
- Further information is available at <https://enrich.nihr.ac.uk/> including how to get involved in the research

Junk email folders - reminder

- CCG colleagues have asked us to please remind care homes to keep checking their junk email folders as they might be missing out on important communications from the CCG.

Next steps

- The next webinar will take place on Friday 19th February at 1pm
- We now have a permanent joining link for our webinars
- The recording from today will be shared on the portal – [link](#)
- Review and respond to any queries/questions, as appropriate

Thank you!