

Adult Social Care Provider Webinar

Friday 4th June 2021

Welcome and Introductions

Ian Crabtree

Welcome and introductions

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

Reminders:

- Webinars are delivered every three weeks, 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 Updates (Sakthi/ Abdul Razaq)
- Vaccination Update (Joanne Reed/ Nichola Morris)
- Care Settings Visiting Guidance (Ellen Smith)
- Visiting Guidance for Supported Living (Cate Short)
- CCT Update (Ian Crabtree)
- Finance Update (Ian Crabtree)
- IPC Update (Ellen Smith)
- Testing (Ellen Smith)
- PPE (Ellen Smith)
- Regular updates; National and Local Guidance (Kieran Curran)

National Updates

Sakthi/ Abdul Razaq

National Updates

- [\(COVID-19\) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do](#) – the guidance has been updated for areas where the new COVID-19 variant is spreading, including Blackburn. Updated on 21st May
- The new COVID-19 variants spreads more easily from person to person. To help stop the spread, you should take particular caution when meeting anyone outside your household or support bubble.

National Updates Con't

In these areas, wherever possible, you should try to:

- meet outside rather than inside where possible
- keep 2 metres apart from people that you don't live with ([unless you have formed a support bubble](#) with them), this includes friends and family you don't live with
- minimise travel in and out of affected areas
- Get tested twice a week for free and isolate if you are positive
- Continue to work from home if you can
- [Get vaccinated](#) when you are offered it, and encourage others to do so as well
- Refer to local health advice for your area.

You should get tested for COVID-19. This includes:

- [Arranging to have a PCR test](#) if you have symptoms of COVID-19
- Participating in [surge testing in your local area](#)
- [Getting regular rapid lateral flow tests](#) if you do not have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Arranging a testing or managed quarantine package if you plan to travel to red or amber list countries. [See further details](#)
- You should self-isolate immediately if you have [symptoms](#) or a [positive test result for COVID-19](#). There is [financial support if you're off work because of coronavirus](#).

Letter from LCC

- There is a letter going out to all care providers on behalf of Sakthi and Louise Taylor.
- Our letter in response to the Government Minister for Care letter (24th May)
- Key action – asking local authorities to continue with their efforts to continue to promote uptake of the vaccine amongst care settings
- Focus is on settings where uptake level for staff/ residents/ service users is below 80%
- COST team leading on calls

Vaccination Updates

Joanne Reed

Vaccination Update

- Nationally nearly 40m people have had 1st dose, around 75% of adult population
- Over 25m have had 2nd dose, nearly 50% of adult population
- In Lancs and South Cumbria 1m+ 1st dose, 650k+ 2nd dose
- All age 30+ can now come forward, trying to be as flexible as can be for 18+
- Please continue to come forward, especially for 2nd dose
- Lancs has had extra supplies so you may be called forward early for 2nd dose
- One dose Janssen vaccine has now been approved

Vaccination Update Con't

- Rising infection rates in all areas of Lancashire, especially in younger people
- Serious illness/death rates generally remain low
- Infections in care settings remain low
- Impact of more visiting appears minimal - DPH has local discretion if infections cause concern
- DHSC maintaining focus on care homes where staff vaccination rate at or below 50% (very few)
- Awaiting outcome of consultation on mandatory vaccination for staff

Vaccination Update Con't

- Surge vaccination now taking place in Burnley and Pendle as areas of concern
- Planning for Preston, Rossendale on the watch list
- Using mobile units, pharmacies and GPs, some door knocking and leaflet dropping
- PH keeping a close eye on infection rates, June data is key for decisions on 21st June lockdown easing
- Pressure in our system to control infection rates
- Please continue to be vigilant
- Any questions or queries please look at the portal or get in touch

Vaccination Calls – Nichola Morris

- The Government's Minister for Care, Helen Whately MP, sent a letter to Directors of Adult Social Services and Directors of Public Health on 24th May, with information relevant to care homes regarding visiting arrangements, vaccination uptake and hospital admission/discharge protocols – [link](#)
- Letter addressed local contingency plans for any rising levels of infection and particularly those associated with variants of concern (VOC) in the local area, which is pertinent to the North West and in particular, some areas of Lancashire.
- **Key action from the letter was the ask of the Department of Health and Social (DHSC) for Local Authorities to continue with their efforts to promote uptake of the vaccine within the wider community, but specifically amongst care home residents, staff and visitors.**

Vaccination Calls Con't

- To further support uptake of the vaccine, DHSC has asked Local Authorities to continue to liaise with care homes to support vaccine uptake, particularly where fewer than 80% of staff and residents have been vaccinated.
- The Covid Outbreak Support Team (COST) has already been contacting homes where the uptake has been lower than 60% amongst staff and some homes may have received a targeted call from DHSC as well, as part of this work
- COST will now be prioritising calls to homes where the uptake level for staff and residents is between 60-80%.
- Health colleagues from the CCGs will also be supporting these calls.

Vaccination Case Studies

- Currently gathering case studies from providers to share around good practice in promoting uptake on the vaccine.
- We will share this on the portal and on the next webinar.

Care Setting Visiting Guidance Update

Ellen Smith

Updated Care Settings Visiting Guidance

- [LRF Care Home Visiting Policy update 17 May 2021](#)
- Reminder that local care home visiting policy was updated to reflect changes in visiting arrangements both in and out of the home with effect from 17th May.
- Providers should facilitate visiting as described in this guidance wherever it is possible to do so in a risk managed way and to inform an update to your visiting policy and dynamic risk assessment:
- [Guidance on care home visiting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Visits out of care homes: summary of guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) The guidance for visits out of care homes was updated on 27th May to reflect that **private cars and taxis are acceptable to use for visits out of the care home.**

Updated Guidance Con't

Indoor visiting

- Every care home resident can nominate up to 5 named visitors who will be able to enter the care home for regular visits (and will be able to visit together or separately as preferred).
- Residents with higher care needs can choose to nominate an essential care giver who may visit the home to attend to essential care needs.
- The 5 named visitors may include an essential care giver (where they have one) but excludes babies and preschool-aged children (as long as this does not breach national restrictions on indoor gatherings)
- To reduce the risk of infection, residents can have no more than 2 visitors at a time or over the course of one day (essential care givers are exempt from this daily limit).
- It is not a condition of visiting that the visitor(s) or the resident must have been vaccinated.

Updated Guidance Con't

Care homes should update their visiting policy and dynamic risk assessment to help them decide how to provide visiting opportunities in a way that takes account of individual needs of their residents, the physical environment and other features unique to the care home.

Care homes should include arrangements to:

- Support residents to nominate up to 5 named visitors
- Arrange for the nominated visitor(s) to take a rapid lateral flow test (LFT) and produce a negative COVID test prior to each visit
- Provide and support the nominated visitor(s) to wear PPE
- Support nominated visitor(s) to follow appropriate infection prevention and control measures within the home
- Encourage nominated visitor(s) and residents to keep physical contact to a minimum, e.g. whilst hand holding may be appropriate close contact hugging etc. is not
- Maintain social distancing
- Sanitise hands on arrival and upon leaving

Care homes can also continue to offer visits to other friends or family members and provide opportunities for every resident to see more people than just their named visitors through arrangements such as outdoor visiting, rooms with substantial screens, visiting pods, or from behind windows.

Updated Guidance Con't

Visits outside the care home - Arrangements for visiting outside of the care home GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

There are certain types of activity where the risks are inherently lower and these should ordinarily be supported without the need for self-isolation on return:

- to spend time outdoors
- to take part in outdoor exercise, not involving close contact with others
- All care home residents should be supported to leave the home, subject to carefully considered risk assessments, for the following activities, without being advised to self-isolate for 14 days on their return:
 - outdoor visits to parks, beaches or gardens
 - medical appointments, such as GP appointments, excluding overnight stays in hospital
 - to take part in other activities necessary to maintain an individual's health and wellbeing (for example, going to a day centre or to a place of worship)
 - to go to work or take part in education or training

Updated Guidance Con't

- All precautions relating to COVID-19 (including social distancing), should be followed while out of the care home.
- Visits out of the care home will be planned in consultation with the family and care home managers, subject to testing requirements and risk assessments.
- The guidance remains that residents who make a visit out other than in the circumstances set out above and where the risk of infection cannot be sufficiently mitigated, should self-isolate for 14 days on return.
- At this time, based on clinical advice, this means that care home residents should self-isolate for 14 days when they return from overnight stays. This remains under active review and it is our ambition that guidance on the need for self-isolation following overnight stays will be amended as soon as the data and evidence show it is safe.
- Separate guidance is available on [planning visits that residents may need to make to a hospital or other healthcare setting](#).
- Care homes should always support visits out in exceptional circumstances, such as to visit a friend or relative at the end of their life.

Updated Guidance Con't

In the event of an outbreak in a care home

- Immediately stop visiting both in and out of the home to protect residents, staff and visitors who might be vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Visits in exceptional circumstances such as end of life should continue in all circumstances, including in the event of an outbreak.
- The circumstances for 'essential care givers' (see below) is considered an exceptional circumstance and should therefore continue in the event of an outbreak, unless there are specific reasons not to do so
- There may be local policy and outbreak management arrangements which will be important to follow. These restrictions should continue until the outbreak is confirmed as over. At that point, visiting (as detailed above) may resume with the usual infection prevention and control measures and any enhancements required due to any risks identified following the recent outbreak.

Updated Guidance Con't

- With effect from 17 May 2021, the period when a COVID-19 outbreak in a care home can be declared over will change from 28 days to 14 days. Once it has been 14 days from the last positive case, the outbreak will end, assuming there are no Variants of Concern (VOCs) identified.
- In order to declare the outbreak over, recovery testing will take place 14 days after the last positive result in an outbreak, rather than 28 days (except where the outbreak included evidence of VOCs).
- If all the recovery testing showed negative results the restrictions on visiting arrangements can be removed.

Blackburn Visiting Position

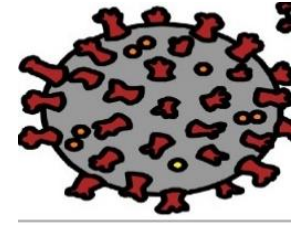
- Blackburn with Darwen have sent an email to their care providers this week – some of you may have received this if you also operate in this area.
- Lancashire and Blackpool **have not** sent out any specific correspondence in relation to visiting.
- As national government guidance is changing in relation to care home visiting, this will increase the number of named visitors allowed into homes from 2 to 5 from Monday 17th May.
- Given the Variant of Concern is in BB1 and BB2 and we know that staff or visitors may live in this area and be travelling to homes across Blackburn with Darwen, we recommend all homes and in particular homes located in these locations to:
 - **Delay the introduction of increased visitors for a period of 2 weeks i.e. not before 31st May.**
 - **Visits, wherever possible, are in visiting pods or outside, weather permitting during this period.**

Blackburn Visiting Position Con't

- As a provider you will need review your dynamic risk assessment that assesses how your home can best manage visits safely. Our recommendation is intended to maintain visiting arrangements to support the rights and wellbeing of your residents, whilst providing extra precautionary safeguards.

Please note:

- The prevention and control measures are the same, whatever the variant. Therefore, please continue to reinforce stringent adherence to good practice for all and provide enhanced cleaning.
- The current situation serves as reminder of the importance of the vaccination programme and we encourage those staff or residents who have not yet received their vaccination to be vaccinated.



Managing Restrictions under COVID -19 Task & Finish Group

Multiagency group informing local guidance

Visiting Guidance (family & friends)

Supported Living, Extra Care, & other settings

Key Messages updated





Visiting Guidance (family & friends)

Supported Living, Extra Care, & other settings

Key Messages updated

1. **The principles of safe visiting, robust risk assessment and Infection Prevention and Control apply** to all decisions about visiting by family and friends.
2. **The Government's default position is that visits should be supported and enabled** wherever it is safe to do so. This includes **both visits in and out of supported living settings**
3. **People living in supported living settings live in their own homes** and should be treated as such. This means they and their visitors **need to follow the same national guidance** as the general population



Supported Living Visiting Key Messages updated

4. **National guidance now allows for indoor visiting under the 'rule of 6'** (6 people from any number of households, or a group of any size from up to two households). **It is still advised that meeting outdoors is safer**
5. The Government has also stated that **Supported Living, Extra Care** and other settings **can apply the Government Guidance on care home visiting** [Guidance on care home visiting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-home-visiting) if this is appropriate to their household.

This means - *please see next slide*



Supported Living Visiting Key Messages updated

- a. **A tenant may nominate up to 5 regular indoor visitors** with the agreement of co-tenants, family, advocates (if needed) and providers, subject to a household risk assessment.
- b. **Providers may need to facilitate Lateral Flow Testing for the regular visitors** if they have not completed this for themselves and ensure all other IPC measures are met for the visit, including PPE, social distancing, and hand hygiene.
- c. **Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) for the workforce and visitors are available through national programme** - [Testing service for extra care and supported living settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/testing-service-for-extra-care-and-supported-living-settings)
LFTs are also available directly to the visitors via the provider, or they can access a local testing station – see [Find a rapid lateral flow test site in your area - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-a-rapid-lateral-flow-test-site-in-your-area)



Supported Living Visiting Key Messages updated

- d. Providers will be at different stage of acquiring LFTs, but **more importantly the arrangements to have staff trained and available to** test visitors will need to be in place before visits are scheduled
- e. **In addition to nominated visitors, a tenant may have an Essential Care Giver.** This is a family member or friend who has a specific caring role as part of the person's care plan.
- f. **The provider will include the Essential Care Giver in staff testing arrangements etc**
- g. **Where the tenant lacks capacity** to decide about visiting or who to nominate, **best interests decisions will be made in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act.**



Supported Living Visiting Key Messages updated

6. Whether following national guidance or care home guidance, **providers should ask visitors to undergo testing prior to entering the property.** 'At the door' testing in Supported Living and other settings is often not practical, so it **may be preferable for the provider to send out LFTs to visitors** to do themselves, or for visitors to obtain their own. **Providers should ask for visitors to produce the evidence of a negative test .**
7. **If a visitor refuses to have a test, this should be risk managed on a case by case basis.** The Supported Living guidance says that **testing is not a requirement for visiting and managers should not refuse visits to visitors** who have not taken a test unless they are symptomatic.



Supported Living Visiting Key Messages updated

8. **Visiting will be suspended in the event of an outbreak** (except for essential care givers and other exceptions)
9. **The provider will update the household's visiting policy to reflect any new arrangements**, and develop an agreement with each visitor and the person supported on the best way to have a safe as possible visit , take the test and where agreeable share results
10. **Providers should refer to the Care Home Visiting Guidance [Guidance on care home visiting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-home-visiting) for full details, as well as the Supported Living Guidance updated 17th May, [COVID-19: guidance for supported living - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living).**



Supported Living Visiting Key Messages updated

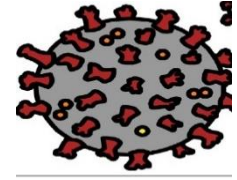
11. **Visits to families and overnight stays are allowed under the 'rule of 6'** , including to holiday accommodation within the UK.
12. Although the advice to shield has ended, it is **advised that clinically extremely vulnerable people continue to take extra precautions to protect themselves** to minimise the risk of exposure to the virus. See updated [Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/shielding-and-protecting-people-who-are-clinically-extremely-vulnerable-from-covid-19)
13. **Providers should be mindful of the risks posed locally by the new variant and dynamically risk assess decisions** about visiting in and out of the tenancy, **particularly where decisions impact on people classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, or those who have not yet had both vaccines.**



Supported Living Visiting Key Messages updated

- 14. Providers are advised to undertake their own risk assessment regarding the deployment of staff who have not been vaccinated and take into consideration whether those staff members are taking part in the enhanced testing programme for supported living.**
- 15. Providers should refer to the separate guidance on professional visiting for Care Homes, which can be applied to supported living settings and other settings as best practice. In short all professional visitors should be able to provide proof of a negative test within the last 72 hours or be tested on the door. Please see [Testing for professionals visiting care homes - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/testing-for-professionals-visiting-care-homes) (www.gov.uk)**

Managing Restrictions under COVID -19



Task & Finish Group - Next meeting

- Wednesday 9th June at 3 pm
- Contact cate.short@lancashire.gov.uk for joining instructions & to submit agenda items
- Please send your examples of good practice for sharing with other providers

Care Capacity Tracker Update

Ian Crabtree

Lancashire Care Capacity Tracker – Next Steps

Introduction

- Developed in March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Helped to keep our vulnerable residents safe during the pandemic
- Supported the care market
- Providers have played a pivotal role in the success of this approach - THANK YOU
- The feedback from providers is that it is the right time to make a change

AND the process has won a Collaboration Award by the Institute for Improvement in Public Services(ICiPS)

Residential Providers

The Plan from 17th June 2021

- Continue to make daily calls, but move to a self inputting model in NECS not Oracle.
- During the daily call you will be asked if you wish to self-input in to NECS and offered training and support to do this.
- We will monitor self-inputting rates and continue to support you as appropriate to maintain our 80%+ return rates.
- This support can not be guaranteed after the 30th September
- We will use NECS reports to identify any pressures and offer support to providers.

During this period, we would also ask that you continue to regularly update ADAM to help us support you in a quality assurance capacity.

Benefits for residential providers

- These changes will allow providers to complete your upload at any time that is convenient to you rather than having to wait for your daily call.
- The use of NECS will also provide access to a range of comparative reports that you are likely to find useful.
- The county council and our partners will use the NECS reports to identify any pressures and continue to provide support accordingly.
- The information you provide in NECS will be used by the Department for Health and Social Care to determine policy development

What residential care providers need to do from 17th June

We would ask residential care providers to;

- continue to take our daily calls (unless you already self-input) and provide the required information
- take up the offer of training to self-input to NECS and access the suite of reports
- Regularly update ADAM
- if you have any queries please contact your contract monitoring officer at contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk

Community Providers (including Extra Care, day care and supported accommodation care providers settings)

The Plan from 17th June 2021

- Community providers will only be required to provide information twice per week, on Mondays and Thursdays.
- This will be either by continuing to self-input into the existing Oracle system or via a call from the Customer Access Service.
- The information will continue to be recorded in the LCC trackers.

Benefits to providers

The reduced frequency of calls will reduce the burden of providing data but will allow the county council and our partners to identify any pressures and continue to provide support accordingly.

Looking ahead

We are working with NECS to determine how we might support community providers to only input to NECS in the future and will keep you informed of any progress on this.

What community providers need to do from 17th June

We would ask our community providers to;

- Continue to take our calls on Mondays and Thursdays and provide the required information
- Report any urgent issues that occur on intervening days

Please use the Contracts Monitoring team email address contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk to inform us of any incidents or issues

Review Arrangements

These transitional arrangements will be regularly reviewed particularly in light of emerging variants and any potential future waves.

We will keep you regularly updated of any proposed changes during this transition phase as we develop a long-term sustainable solution to both data collection and quality assurance.

May I take this opportunity once again to thank you for your continued support.

Finance Updates

Ian Crabtree

Infection Control and Testing Fund

1st April – 30 June 2021

- **Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund** - sets out the measures that the new Infection Control and Testing Fund will support, including distribution of funds, conditions on funds and reporting requirements. **Published on 29th March**
- This is a new grant, with some **subtle** differences in the conditions to the original Infection Control Fund, the extension to the Infection Control Fund and the original Rapid Testing Fund.
- The purpose of this fund is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to:
 - reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings through effective infection prevention and control practices and increase uptake of staff vaccination
 - conduct additional rapid testing of staff and visitors in care homes, high-risk supported living and extra care settings, to enable close contact visiting

Allocation formula

| ICF3 | Ringfenced | Discretionary | £ / Unit | UNIT BASIS |
|------------------|------------|---------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| RESI / D&A | £2,944,061 | £856,565 | £292.60 | Bed |
| COMMUNITY | £870,664 | £253,317 | £94.82 | User |
| PUBLIC HEALTH | | £375,000 | TBC | |
| | | | | |
| TESTING | Ringfenced | Discretionary | £ / Unit | UNIT BASIS |
| RESI / D&A | £2,304,488 | £500,000 | £215.91 | Bed |
| SUPPORTED LIVING | 0 | £712,720 | £15,164 | AVG £ per provider - 47 providers |

Infection Control and Testing Fund

1st April – 30 June 2021– communicating the story

- This webinar
- Letters have gone out
- Follow up in the Tracker calls to check receipt, who is dealing with it and that it is being actioned

- **Please ensure you or a colleague have responded to this letter as soon as possible so we can get your organisation's share of the Grant to you.**
- **If you have sent us your signed agreement and not received the money please tell us in case its gone astray**
- **Equally important – if you don't want to receive this money please advise asap so we can relocate to other providers in need of further financial**

Understanding your individual allocation

- If you reported an Infection Control or Rapid Testing underspend on your March 2021 final return, the County Council will reduce your allocation of the new fund by the amount of your underspend.
- This means that you will not be required to return any money to the County Council and may retain the underspend to use on 2021 grant measures.
- The County Council will make only one payment to you

Reporting requirements

- The County Council must submit two returns to the DHSC detailing how the grant has been used. In order for the County Council to do this it is essential that you inform us how you have used your allocation. You must use the County Council's e-form to report your use of this funding by the dates detailed below. The e-form is located at:
- [https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/2021 ICF and Testing Spend Analysis](https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/2021_ICF_and_Testing_Spend_Analysis)
- Information must be returned no later than:
- **(Reporting point 1 2021)** 12 May 2021 (spending from 1 April 2021 up to 30 April 2021)
- **Reporting point 2 2021)** 23 July 2021 (spending from 1 April 2021 up to 30 June 2021)

Returning Grant Overpayment

- Some providers have declared such significant underspends on previous Grant that they are too high to 'net off'
- £600K in total at last count
- In those cases providers need to pay the Grant back to LCC and we have issued reminder emails to that effect
- We will return that money back to DHSC as required under the Grant Conditions

Covid Grants from July 2021 onwards...

- No news on this as yet
- Best assume no new money is coming...
- But representations on this will continue to be made
- Compliance to Grant Conditions and providing returns makes the case easier to make

IPC updates

Ellen Smith

IPC Update

- Visiting LCC Staff to your setting.
- Acute Respiratory Illness Guidance.
- Variant name changes.

Visiting LCC Staff

Guidance now issued for the expectations you would expect for LCC staff visiting your setting. This would include:

- PPE
- Hand hygiene compliance.

Be confident to challenge!

ARI Guidance

- This was issued by PHE mid-May and adapted locally by LCC on 18th May.
- Now uploaded onto the portal and our IPC Webpage.

ARI Guidance

- Whole home “recovery” testing will be moved forward to day 14. If no PCR positives are detected via recovery testing, outbreak restrictions can then be lifted (including the resumption of visiting).

ARI Guidance

- If a variant of concern is detected in an outbreak (other than VOC-20DEC-01 [Alpha variant]) then the outbreak restrictions should remain in place until whole home recovery testing has been completed **after a period 28 days** with no new cases. The HPT will communicate variant of concerns results and will provide support in reviewing the risk assessment.

For Clarity...

- In an outbreak, all confirmed cases are treated as a VOC (variant of concern) and outbreaks continue for 28 days, **unless whole geno-sequencing (WGS) shows otherwise.**
- In the North West for single cases we don't wait for the WGS results, and as soon as there's a positive PCR result whole home testing should be completed on day 0 and again 4-7 days later. If no positives are detected (and therefore no outbreak is detected) then outbreak restrictions can be lifted immediately.

Variant names

Coronavirus variants have been renamed with letters of the Greek alphabet by the World Health Organisation.

- Kent is now known as Alpha
- South African is now known as Beta
- Indian is now known as Delta

Testing - Updated Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for adult social care settings – the guidance has been updated to reflect:

- a reduction in the time required to determine the end of an outbreak in care homes - see IPC update.
- that extra care and supported living testing now includes visitors- see task and finish group update.

The testing regime for day care centres has changed - staff testing schedule:

We advise that workers take 2 rapid lateral flow tests and 1 PCR test per week, ideally before starting their work shift:

- One rapid LFT on the same day as the PCR test (Thurs-Sun).
- One rapid LFT on days 3-4 between PCR tests.

Testing - Updated Guidance Con't

Personal assistants testing regime has been removed and universal testing is now offered:

- Free rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) tests are now available for everyone in England without symptoms.
- Anyone working in adult social care who is not currently part of regular testing regime should access twice weekly testing through this [link](#).
- This will be crucial in detecting people that are infectious and to help maintain the safety of everyone in the ASC sector.

Testing - Updated Guidance

Con't

- ASC staff who are not part of a regular testing regime may include social workers and support workers, those working for charities or community organisations, shared lives carers, personal assistants, unpaid carers and others.
- Where appropriate, regular testing of people being supported (for example if attending respite) may also be beneficial.
- Rapid lateral flow tests (LFT) are available for home delivery, for collection at participating pharmacies and local sites and at local asymptomatic test sites.
- Staff should access these tests through any of these routes and test twice weekly (every 3-4 days), ideally before starting work.

Testing - Updated Guidance

Con't

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing in adult care homes](#) – has been updated to reflect changes to end of outbreak testing and updated instructions on using the multiple upload spreadsheet, which can now be used to report both rapid lateral flow tests and PCR tests. Updated on 20th May

- [COVID-19: how to work safely in care homes](#) - a note has been added explaining that the infographics are being reviewed and will be updated shortly in line with the guidance. Updated on 18th May

- [COVID-19: how to work safely in domiciliary care in England](#) - a note has been added explaining that the infographics are being reviewed and will be updated shortly in line with the guidance. Updated on 18th May

PPE Update

- Awaiting letter from DHSC re their intention for the national PPE portal beyond March 2022.

National and local policy updates, guidance and events

Kieran Curran

COVID-19 Online Resources

- [Care Quality Commission info for providers](#)
- [Social Care Institute for Excellence](#)
- [Health Education England's coronavirus programme](#)

All new and updated national adult social care guidance is available on the Portal under:

Government, NHS and
NW ADASS advice and
guidance

Updated National Guidance

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for homecare workers: information for agencies](#) – sets out how homecare agencies in England can order regular tests for their homecare (domiciliary care) staff (updated 20 May). Page also includes:
 - How to sign up for testing webinars
 - Information on support for Personal Assistants
 - [Guidance for homecare workers in England on how to collect, complete and register test kits.](#)

National Care Home Open Week

28 June – 4 July 2021

[Care Home Open Week](#) will allow you to showcase what your care home has to offer and promote your facilities, activities and services. It is a fabulous opportunity to celebrate and thank all your team members and residents.

Care Home Open Week will also give individuals considering a career in the sector a first-hand opportunity to experience working life in a care home and to talk to your team members about how rewarding the sector can be, as a care worker or even a volunteer.

To find out more and get involved, register your event and receive an event pack full of tips and ideas please visit:

[Care Home Open Week](#)

Care Home Quality Webinars

- [Free webinars hosted by NWADASS and CQC](#) for residential and nursing care homes, registered managers and staff
- Short, practical and led by providers
- Hear from CQC about inspections and ask questions
- 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd July
- 9th, 16th, 22nd and 30th September
- 7th and 14th October
- Once registered, NWADASS will be in touch with full details of the event programme

[Register for the webinars and book tickets](#)

DARE TO CARE

A PATHWAY FOR CARERS

A new pilot scheme to support unpaid carers to pursue a career in local care homes will begin in Lancashire and South Cumbria later this month.

20 volunteers are being recruited to participate in the two pilot schemes launching in Fleetwood and Blackpool. Healthwatch Lancashire is leading on recruitment and coordinating the training and placements of participants.

If your care home would like to take part, please contact:

Contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk or Healthwatch Lancashire via faye.smith@healthwatchcumbria.co.uk

Dementia Taster Sessions

One-hour sessions by arrangement with Lancashire Adult Learning. Sessions can be delivered face to face or online, exclusively with staff or a mix of staff and service users.

❑ *Make a memory box*

Make a memory box or bag and collect items to go into it. Participants will focus on each item and identify how objects can spark memories

❑ *Triggering memories*

Explore 20 ideas to trigger your brain to remember “the good stuff, the in-between stuff and the small but-oh-so-wonderful moments”

❑ *I Remember I remember*

Explore how to use art, poetry and song for reminiscence work

If you would like any more information or to book a time slot, please contact Lancashire Adult Learning craig.pollard@nelsongroup.ac.uk

Supporting culturally appropriate care

- Holistic, person-centred care has always been important but during the pandemic it has become even more critical that we are all aware of [culturally appropriate care](#)
- [The CQC has launched a new online resource offering guidance for providers on culturally appropriate care](#)
- Contains examples and good practice to help care providers think about different ways people's culture might affect the way they wish to receive their care and support

RESTORE 2 Training

- Together the Innovation Agency (North West Coast Patient Safety Collaborative) and Chorley & South Ribble and Greater Preston Clinical Commissioning Groups are working to enhance the confidence of care home staff in detecting and appropriately escalating deteriorating residents with the implementation of RESTORE2™
- Restore2 can improve care for care home residents through the early identification of deterioration. It has been endorsed and recommended for use by Care Quality Commission, Dept for Health and Social Care, NHS England, British Geriatrics Society, Learning Disabilities Mortality Review and Public Health England

RESTORE 2 Training Con't

- Webinars are available to provide training and support to care home staff: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/restore-2-online-training-session-tickets-103421153454>
- RESTORE2 (Recognise early soft-signs, Take observations, Respond, Escalate) is a physical deterioration and escalation tool that incorporates the National Early Warning Score (NEWS2) to help care home staff recognise when a resident's condition is deteriorating. The tool determines what is normal for the resident, detects 'soft' signs of deterioration and uses a structured communication tool (SBARD) to support decision-making and escalation processes.
- There is an expectation that all homes will be using the RESTORE 2 tool by March 2022.

Next steps

- The next webinar will take place on Friday 25th June at 1pm, we are now delivering the webinar every three weeks.
- 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!