



**Vale of York**  
Clinical Commissioning Group



**Monday 27 July 2020**

## **What's in your Partners in Care bulletin?**

This weekly bulletin provides details of training, guidance, access to past editions and lots more. There's also helpful information on the web pages dedicated to our Care Home and Domiciliary Care colleagues. [Please click here to bookmark these pages](#)

## Working Safely in Care Homes and Domiciliary Care Guidance

**The above national guidance was updated on 20 July. Please find below a summary of the recommendations below that has kindly been put together by Phillippa Press (Public Health, City of York Council)**

The guidance has been amended to include recommendation for the use of face masks and coverings in social care settings. In this scenario the use of face masks or face coverings is not considered PPE, i.e. mask use in this case is not used for protection of the staff member wearing the mask but is to prevent them passing on COVID-19 from their mouth and nose to other people in the care home. The face masks used are not the are either Type I or II. However the Type IIR mask may be used if Type I or II are not available.

The guidance for [care homes](#) and [domiciliary care](#) was updated to take into account the sustained transmission of COVID-19. Providers will need to consider how to operationalise these guidelines in their own setting and in line with their operating procedures.

The guidance for both areas includes the addition of 'Table 3' which outlines the use of face masks or face coverings in 'any other situation and at a distance of 2 of two meters or more away'.

These recommendations apply:

- When in a care home and not meeting conditions set out in Tables 1 or 2
- E.g. when working in staff only areas, such as staff common rooms, office, laundry room, kitchen.
- Whatever your role (i.e. applies to all staff, care workers, cleaners, receptionists etc.) even if you do not deliver care to residents.

Note: this is not considered PPE, i.e. mask use in this scenario is not used for protection of the staff member wearing the mask but is to prevent them passing on COVID-19 from their mouth and nose to other people in the care home.

All other measures to protect you and others should continue:

- Hand hygiene (cleaning your hands regularly and appropriately);
  - Respiratory hygiene ("catch it, bin it, kill it"), avoiding touching your face with your hands,
  - Following [standard infection prevention and control precautions](#)
  - Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and
  - Ensure you practice social distancing (at least 2 metres from other individuals including staff members).
-

## Visiting Guidance for Care Homes (York and North Yorkshire)

Please find through this [link](#), comprehensive guidance for York and North Yorkshire care home providers on safely opening up homes to family visitors, alongside a [corresponding document](#) for people's families who are visiting .

Professional visitors guidance remains unchanged in that community nurses, GPs, advocates, occupational therapists, social workers etc. are visiting your home to support residents should be able to enter as usual. You will have procedures in place to ensure they are following the correct infection control processes before they enter, wearing the appropriate PPE and are not exhibiting symptoms. There is no requirement for you to check the Covid-19 status of visiting professionals.

## Need to know



### Skills for Care COVID-19 Support Webinars

Skills for Care have two additional webinars taking place for registered managers over the next fortnight. These webinars are live and recorded and then placed on their website for future access. If you wish to access the live webinars please book on using the links below. Please note places are limited on the live webinars to book early to avoid disappointment.

**Wednesday 29 July 2020, 09:00 – 09:30**

[Human Resources during COVID-19 recovery phase](#)

The impact of COVID-19 is continuing to create a challenging time for the social care workforce. We will cover a number a number of HR issues that are causing confusion and complications for both employers and employees, including shielding, refusal to be tested, annual leave taken abroad and variation of contracts. This webinar is co-delivered with ACAS and covers many of the questions that have been raised by managers.

**Thursday 06 August 2020, 11:30 – 12:00**

[Verification of Expected Death during COVID-19 with remote clinical](#)

## support

The Coronavirus Act 2020 makes special arrangements for verifying an expected death with clinical remote support in a community setting, such as care homes, supported living accommodation or when a person receives care in their own home. This webinar will support non-medical people to prepare for verifying an expected death in times of the COVID-19 emergency. The supporting guidance which has been produced will enable care workers to be able to say whether or not they feel confident and comfortable to carry out this procedure and what preparation will be needed to meet current guidelines, local policy and practice in a safe and compassionate way.

If you have any questions on a topic that you'd like to see raised during the webinar, please email [events@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:events@skillsforcare.org.uk). These webinars are part of a series of recorded webinars on a variety of topics to assist managers to respond to the additional pressures of COVID-19. You can find all our recorded webinars on our [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/COVID-19webinars](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/COVID-19webinars).

## COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

### Partners in Care- COVID-19 Response ECHO Network

The network is open to all Vale of York independent care providers, and takes place **alternate Thursdays from 14:00-15:00**. Through the Zoom online platform the network is designed to provide the latest best practice guidance, training, and peer support to care providers at this difficult time. CCG, Local Authority, Infection Prevention and Control, Mental Health, CQC and Medicines Management are among the organisations and specialists represented on these sessions to answer questions and help discussion.

The next session will take place on **Thursday 06 August**

The slides from all the sessions that have taken place so far can be found through our [website](#).

For any queries or to suggest topics for future sessions, please email [projectECHOteam@stleonardshospice.nhs.uk](mailto:projectECHOteam@stleonardshospice.nhs.uk) or call Chris Charters on 07741 734659.

### Apprenticeships and Traineeship

Claire Ryan from the Humber Coast and Vale Excellence Centre attended last week's Partners in Care ECHO Network to discuss her new role supporting care providers among other organisations in accessing information and support around Apprenticeships. The work she helps support can be broken down into the following.

- Support with setting up and using Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS) accounts
- Receiving levy transfers from other organisations or reserving funds from the ESFA
- Guidance on using apprenticeships in workforce development & planning
- Support with accessing

government incentives

Claire is contactable via email at [Claire.Ryan@hey.nhs.uk](mailto:Claire.Ryan@hey.nhs.uk) if you have any questions relating to Apprenticeships.

## Further Information

### Community Health Services Education, Training and Guidance Resources

Please find through this [link](#) a useful document that brings together providers free national training for care providers into one document.

The document also links to a site which holds all the government and PHE information for the adult social care sector on responding to the coronavirus pandemic in one central holding. This includes:

- How to work safely in care homes
- Admission and care of people in care homes
- Coronavirus (Covid-19) Health & wellbeing of the adult work force
- Coronavirus (Covid-19) How to work safely in domiciliary care

Details of further training opportunities, including those hosted by the CCG can be found through this [link](#).

### NHS Mail Support Webinars

The support webinars hosted by NHS England and Improvement now take place weekly each Tuesday from 14:00-15:00.

To join these webinars– please follow this [link](#)

Any care providers who require assistance in using NHSmail are encouraged to join the training webinars, these are live sessions so you will have the opportunity to ask questions throughout. The topics included in the sessions include the below.

If you have any queries in relation to NHS Mail please contact [sam.varo@nhs.net](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net)

**This bulletin is produced by NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group.**

## **Do you have.....**

- **thoughts or comments to share?**
- **news that you would like to feature in the bulletin?**
- **items to be discussed at the next Partners in Care Meeting?**

If so please contact [sarah.fiori@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.fiori@nhs.net) or [sam.varo@nhs.net](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net)