



Vale of York
Clinical Commissioning Group



Care Homes and
Domiciliary Care

Monday 30 November 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 Independent Care Provider colleagues.

[Please click here to bookmark these pages](#)



COVID-19 Vaccination Update for Health and Social Care Staff (Update from City of York Council Public Health Team)

- Most of you will be aware that the government has procured COVID vaccines from a number of suppliers, all of which are still awaiting completion of trials. The CCG is taking the lead for this and regular meetings are taking place between all partners to ensure a smooth and equitable roll out.

- Cohort one – those that will be vaccinated first include care home residents and staff, over 80's, social care staff, and locally we have included Hospice staff.
- Detailed plans of how this will be offered to different groups is yet to be finalised but it will be a mixed economy, for example it is likely that GP's will vaccinate care home residents in the care home (the logistics of offering a vaccination to care home staff at the same time is still being worked through), there will also a mass vaccination site as this is an NHSE/I preferred approach to reduce wastage and a community nursing offer for housebound patients.
- We realise that you will have lots of questions which we are not able to answer at this time but we will endeavour to update you as soon as we can but things are changing very quickly so please bear with us.
- The vaccination is no silver bullet and it is important that we maintain the behaviours that prevent the spread of the Virus – Hands, face, space, isolating, having a Covid test if you have any symptoms and implementation of IPC guidance including the correct use of PPE.

Lateral Flow Testing Update

- As we now know, York and North Yorkshire are now [Tier 2: High alert](#) areas, however guidance for visits to care homes is the same across all tiers.
 - *“Visits to care homes can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Regular testing will be offered to up to 2 family members or friends per resident by Christmas, which – when combined with other infection-control measures such as PPE – will support indoor visits with physical contact. Detailed guidance will be published shortly”*
 - Local authorities and the CCG are working to ensure care home managers are supported in managing this process safely, and that lateral flow testing for visitors will be a supplement to existing appointment based arrangements, not a replacement.

Need to know



Have You Had Your Flu Vaccination?

With the release of more positive news about the development of a vaccine for coronavirus, we would encourage you to have your flu vaccine as soon as possible if you have not done so already. The government has released plans to administer the coronavirus vaccine in stages with Care Home residents and staff to be first in the queue followed by healthcare workers and the over 80's. The plan is then to work down through the age groups.

As we know, having the flu vaccination every year is important, but this year it is vital to make sure we do all we can to support and protect the NHS and care services due to the potential impact of flu and COVID-19 circulating at the same time. With Care Home residents and staff identified as the first group to receive the vaccination, we want to remind anyone who has not had their flu vaccination to get one as soon as possible as you **must have a period of 21-28 days after the flu jab before you can be vaccinated against coronavirus.**

Flu can be deadly and is easily spread from person-to-person, even amongst those not showing any symptoms. Unvaccinated and asymptomatic, but nevertheless infected, staff may unknowingly pass the virus on to vulnerable residents, friends, family and colleagues.

Flu outbreaks can have a serious effect on the social care sector. Every year there are flu outbreaks in care homes despite high flu vaccination rates for residents. This is partly because as people age, they do not produce as good an immune response to vaccinations. The vaccination against flu protects the people we care for and protects staff, their family and friends, helping to keep services running safely during winter. Flu Vaccination is important because:

- If you're at higher risk from coronavirus, you're also more at risk of problems with flu.
- Research has shown that if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, you're more likely to be seriously ill.

Here's a reminder of how you can support staff flu vaccinations

If you are a manager

Public Health England produces resources specifically for those working in the social care sector and you can access these [here](#).

Please help the fight against the flu virus this year by encouraging your team and colleagues to book their flu vaccination.

If you're a frontline health and social care worker, your employer should offer you a flu vaccine. They may give the vaccine at your workplace. If you have not had your vaccine yet, please ask your employer how they will be offering staff the flu vaccine this year.

You can also have the flu vaccine if you provide health or social care through [direct payments or personal health budgets](#), or both. The [NHS website](#) has more information.

Thank you again to all our social care workers for your hard work and commitment during these profoundly challenging times, and we thank you in advance for your support by getting your flu vaccine this year!

A reminder that any staff registered at a City of York GP Practice (including Pocklington) they can book directly for the Askham Bar drive through site through the information that has been circulated. If you would like the link and booking information again please get in touch.



Bar Code Scanners for Testing

At the Partners in Care Virtual Forum last week, one of the homes managers updated on how she was using a bar code scanner to help input test kit barcodes into the reporting spreadsheet for her staff. This has massively reduced time previously spent entering them manually. These devices can be bought online cheaply. Another manager updated that she was using the homes tablet device to scan these in.



Guidance for Seasonal Decorations During COVID-19

Infection, Prevention and Control have produced guidance for both [care homes](#) and [domiciliary providers](#) on how to display Christmas decorations to minimise any risk of transmitting infection. Their recommendations are:

- Decorations should be single season use and disposed of when taken down unless they are washable/wipeable with a disinfectant which destroys *C. difficile* spores and is effective against COVID-19
- Ideally, decorations should only be hung or displayed on walls, i.e. so they cannot be touched
- Avoid putting decorations on horizontal surfaces, as this impedes thorough cleaning of the area. Decorations on horizontal surfaces should be minimal to facilitate enhanced cleaning
- Residents can display their own artificial Christmas tree and decorations in their room
- No wood, straw or live trees should be used, artificial trees only
- No cloth or knitted toys should be displayed
- No decorations should be displayed in clinical rooms
- Please note that if there is an outbreak of infection, e.g. *C. difficile*, Norovirus, COVID-19, in the home, all decorations may need to be disposed of

Performing CPR on Symptomatic Individuals

Following the guidance from Department of Health and Social Care that has been circulated recently, The Resuscitation Council have produced some [guidance](#) which may be more helpful to care homes and community care providers.

Training and Development Opportunities



The Care Exchange: Exciting New Podcast for Managers

Skills for Care have launched a new podcast series, and will be inviting guests to join them as they celebrate the role of managers in social care. They'll be talking to managers about their experiences, providing a place where managers can listen to other managers and pick-up ideas to support them in their own role.

[Listen now to the first episode in 'The Care Exchange' podcast series.](#)

NEW – Deputy Manager Networks

Skills for Care have launched a new network specifically for deputy managers, team leaders and assistant managers. The networks will be a great opportunity for deputies to meet the challenges they face in their day-to-day work, provide the opportunity to build supportive connections and a peer support network and facilitate the sharing of best practice and learning.

To find out more please follow this [link](#)

Further Information



Covid-19 - Are YOU staying ok through all of this?

Are you supporting others at work, or at home but not looking after you? Are you finding furlough tough? Is working from home getting harder? Is returning to the office daunting? Has your family/work situation changed? Do you feel separated from family and friends?



Capacity Tracker- Domiciliary Providers and Supported Living

From today, all CQC registered domiciliary and supported living providers are being asked to report in through the Capacity Tracker daily to answer COVID-19 questions previously reported to the CQC direct. Providers should have received a communication directly from the

Covid-19 has challenged us this year, in ways that were hard to imagine 12 months ago.

We **ALL** need to look after our own mental health and well-being to navigate this difficult time.

Ask yourself – how am I? Then ask again – How am I really?

York Mind, we understand that a lot of us have been thrown off track and our lives have changed significantly. We may be working hard to help others and forget ourselves. Sometimes we need a bit of support – York Mind are here to help. Thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund we are able to offer that help – 1:1 Well-being coaching and 1:1 telephone support are available. Take that first step to find out more – contact us today. We are accepting self-referrals.

- Email: activities@yorkmind.org.uk or Telephone: **01904 643364 option 5**
- For further information including the referral form please follow this [link](#)

CQC regarding these changes.

The information on the tracker is accessed by the CCG and local authority to help support providers, and also goes into national reporting.

If you have any questions regarding the tracker please contact sam.varo@nhs.net

The tracker also has a helpdesk who can be contacted for any technical issues- the number is: **0191 691 3729**

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 or sam.varo@nhs.net