



Monday 22 February 2021

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](#)



Testing Within 90 Days of a Positive PCR Test and Testing During a Confirmed or Suspected Outbreak

Please find through this [link](#) a bulletin shared by the Department of Health and Social Care earlier last week.

Following a substantial clinical review of the latest evidence and testing data, they are now changing the advice for retesting within 90 days of a positive. From now on, if someone tests positive with a PCR test, they should not be tested

using PCR or LFD for 90 days, unless they develop new symptoms during this time, in which case they should be retested immediately using PCR. This 90 day period is from the initial onset of symptoms or, if asymptomatic when tested, their positive test result.

There are also some changes to the testing process during the event of an outbreak as detailed below:

- a. Rapid response LFD testing for staff is being extended (from 22 February). This should no longer automatically stop after 7 days. Instead care homes should continue with rapid response testing until 5 days have elapsed since the date of the last positive LFD (confirmed with PCR). Staff should only be tested on the days they are due to attend work.
- b. LFD testing for residents is being introduced (from 22 February). This should be undertaken at the same time as the PCR testing in an outbreak – on day 1 and on an additional day between days 4 and 7. The usual principles of consent and best interest decisions apply to inform your decision whether this is appropriate for each resident.
- c. With immediate effect, PCR outbreak testing is moving from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2. The policy for when to carry out the outbreak PCR remains the same. All staff and residents should be tested on day one and on an additional day between days 4 and 7.

DHSC hold regular webinars which cover these changes. For more information on these, please follow this [link](#).



NHS Mail Deadline- 7 Days to go

All accounts that have been inactive for over 180 days on 1 March will be automatically deleted. Any providers within users due to lose access will have now received contact to assist. To prevent your account being deleted then you just need to log into your account.

We have created a page on the [Partners in Care webpage](#) that provides answers to frequently asked questions from providers around accessing and using NHS Mail.

It's important that providers have enough staff registered to allow them to communicate securely with health services whenever needed, for instance during an overnight hospital admission or on a weekend. Some homes have been setting up senior nurses and carers as well as admin staff, and any staff who regularly send and receive resident specific information with health services would likely benefit from an account to help them do this more efficiently.

For any NHS Mail queries please contact: sam.varo@nhs.net

Need to know



Partners in Care Virtual Forum

This week's Partners in Care Virtual Forum, will take place on **Thursday 11 February from 2.00-2.45**. These sessions are designed to provide support with the latest guidance, updates from across health and social care and a chance to ask questions of both health professionals and fellow care sector colleagues.

The sessions are shaped by our care providers so if you have anything you would like to raise for this meeting please get in touch.

All care providers and partners agencies are welcome at the forum, please contact sam.varo@nhs.net if you don't have the calendar invite.



Project ECHO- Palliative Care Network

First session: Tuesday 23 February at 2.00

The Project ECHO Team are welcoming all staff working in care services across the Vale of York to attend their new palliative care network. These sessions will be delivered by specialist palliative care staff from across the sector, and will be an opportunity for learning, shared experience and to enhance palliative care skills. For more information, please view the [flyer](#) for the network.

Training and Development Opportunities



Skills for Care Webinar- Discrimination and Workers' Rights

**Tuesday 23 February 2021, 10:00
- 11:30**

The focus of this webinar is to share and understand the challenges of discrimination. An expert panel will explore how people are discriminated against, types of discrimination and what individuals can do to address this.

Peer coaching: Brave conversations around race and equality

**When: Monday 1 March 2021, 10:30 –
12:15**

This event will be an open discussion for the black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) community. It will cover the themes and topics that came out of our recent webinars including the recommendations of the COVID-19 Task Force and BAME Communities Advisory Group. It's an open forum to give you the space to share some of your thoughts and ideas and a chance to join your peers to discuss what really matters to you and what you would like to see happen.

To book your place please follow this [link](#)

- Are you supported enough and is your organisation doing enough?
- What are you doing as an individual?
- Is there a fair process of complaint and do you understand your legal rights?

To book your place please follow this [link](#)

Further Information

Care Home Testing Feedback Survey – Have Your Say

The Department of Health and Social Care have produced a short survey to help us improve the testing process.

They are looking for feedback from care homes on the overall testing process and communications. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Your input will be critical in helping them to identify where improvements or additional support is required. All survey responses will be anonymised.

To complete the survey please follow this [link](#)



PPE for Staff Providing Care Outside Hospital: What to Wear

Please find through this [link](#) a short video designed by Public Health England which provides an up to date summary of where we are in the fight against COVID-19, as well as a summary of PPE and IPC process from the current guidance. This was shown at Partners in Care last week and providers remarked that this was a useful refresher, which a number have already encouraged staff to watch.

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