



Monday 17 January 2022

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](#)



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Omicron Variant Outbreak in Care Homes Protocol Update

DHSC have provided the below [update](#) with regard to Omicron outbreak protocols, which providers will also have received from their local authorities:

Outbreaks of the Omicron variant in care homes can now be managed as per standard outbreak protocols. Therefore, the timing of outbreak recovery testing – which impacts the duration of outbreak restrictions - should change back to the standard **14 day period** of no new cases instead of 28 days. This applies to current Omicron outbreaks in care homes and any new outbreak.

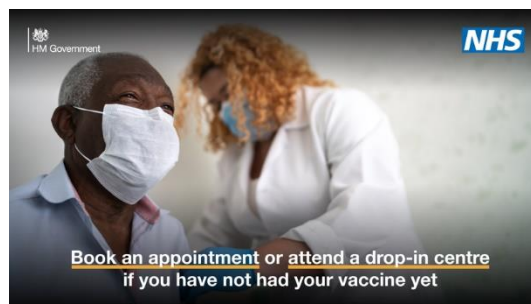
Care homes with a current Omicron outbreak where it has been 14 days or more with no new cases should now complete their outbreak recovery testing and if no new cases are found at this point, the outbreak restrictions can then be lifted. Remember that once a care home has completed their testing at the start of an outbreak (LFD and PCR on day one, and once again between day 4-7), they should continue their regular testing regime of weekly staff PCR (as well as rapid response testing until there have been five days with no new positives).

Your local HPT can provide further advice on this if needed. Please remember the implementation of all IPC measures continues to be key and the COVID-19 booster vaccination for eligible staff and residents continues to be a vital protection.

Reminder- LAMP Testing for Entry to Care Homes

Following feedback that some care homes haven't been aware of this, please find a [letter](#) circulated in November on behalf of the CCG and York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This details revised guidance for NHS professionals working for the Trust in visiting care homes, which was strengthened following [Department of Health and Social Care guidance](#) in order to reduce risks from visits by NHS professionals. Entry should be granted providing one of the below is satisfied:

- Care homes should see evidence from the professional of a negative rapid lateral flow test within the last 72hrs, which shows they are following the NHS staff testing regime
- or**
- NHS professionals visiting care homes should be granted entry if they have a negative test result as part of regular weekly staff testing using LAMP technology.



Access to COVID Vaccination for Social Care Providers

As communicated last week, care homes with a Nimbuscare lead GP Practice (All City of York and Pocklington area practices) are able to arrange catchup visits from the vaccination team. Homes are eligible if they have more than 5 staff and residents who require any of these vaccinations (COVID 1st/2nd doses, COVID Booster or Flu). To arrange a visit please email: nimbuscare.help.desk@nhs.net. This offer will be open until the end of March so can take account of those currently unable to receive a vaccination due to positive test.

All health and social care staff are also still able to access COVID vaccinations through either through a booked appointment, or through one of the drop in clinics listed through this link (please bring staff ID if accessing this way):

<https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/campaigns/book-your-covid-19-vaccine-and-booster-appointment/>

If you have any staff who are having difficulty in accessing a vaccine, then please let us know and we will endeavour to help.

Need to Know

Partners in Care Forum- LD and Autism Focused

When: Thursday 20 January 2.00-2.45

The LD and Autism Forum is designed as a network to explore issues unique for the sector, for care providers to come together and discuss challenges, receive updates and ask questions of fellow providers. This week Gill Thomas from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust will be attending to provide Overview of the Community Learning Disability Team for Vale of York. This will include their criteria, referral and what support they can offer providers around behaviour that challenges whether that is low level nursing support or looking at PBS (positive behaviour support). Providers should have received a calendar invite, however anybody who hasn't but would like to join can contact sam.varo@nhs.net for the joining details.

Telemedicine Service in Care Homes

Heather Bygrave and Annabelle Smith from Immedicare attended last weeks Partners in Care Virtual Forum to give an overview of the telemedicine service, and the benefits it can provide to care homes in facilitating access to clinical support when required (particularly during out of hours when fewer services are available). Please find slides from the update through this [link](#). For older adults homes yet to take up offer we will be contacting you individually to explore any

questions you have, or alternatively you can email sam.varo@nhs.net. So far 31 homes have taken up the offer and the first home is expected to go live with the system later in the month.



Nutrition in Care Home Resources

Please find through this [link](#) a set of resources kindly supplied by York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which providers may find useful. This includes a list of nutritious drinks and shots, a nutrition in care homes handbook and links to useful training available.

Bronze Award in Quality Improvement E-Learning

The Improvement Academy are offering this course free to all health and care staff, which provides an introduction to quality improvement including an introduction to a model of improvement and how to use in practice. The course would be beneficial to those interested in supporting or delivery quality improvement projects. Further information can be found through this [flyer](#).

Learning and Development Opportunities

Skills for Care Yorkshire and Humber Webinar- Developments in Digital Social Care

When: Tuesday 25 January 10.00-11.30

Adult social care services are increasingly using different forms of digital technology to support the delivery of services. This session will

Skills for Care Webinar- Medicines from the Regulatory Perspective (Part 2)

When: Thursday 27 January 10.00-11.30

This webinar, in partnership with CQC, will explore the regulations and best practice around managing medicines in care homes and

share the resources that Skills for Care has to support you with the use of digital. We'll update you on the latest consultations which look at the levels of digital literacy in adult social care and share examples of how digital supports service delivery.

To register please follow this [link](#)

domiciliary care settings. People accessing care services often require support with their medication and organisations have a responsibility to ensure proper and safe use of medicines and require that staff responsible for the management and administration of medication are suitably trained and competent.

To register please follow this [link](#)

Further Information

Contacts for Incident Reporting

- To report any patient safety concerns regarding York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, please use this dedicated generic email. This will allow the Trust to continuously receipt, acknowledge and investigate these concerns. Please send to: yhs-tr.s2s@nhs.net
- To make a complaint or to highlight any concerns regarding Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, please email yas.patientrelations@nhs.net. Please find through this [link](#) a template which you are able to complete, which will ensure they have all the information required to investigate.

Addressing the Dementia Diagnosis Gap- Memory Service Referrals

**When: Thursday January 20 2022
12.00 – 1.00**

Yorkshire and Humber Mental Health Clinical Networks invite you to join this informal 'Conversations' Session to contribute to discussions about how to address the Dementia Diagnosis Gap. Led by our Clinical Lead, Dr Sara Humphrey with support from Dr Rod Kersh, Consultant Community Physician, these sessions form an important part of the Dementia and Older Peoples Mental Health Programme. Nationally there has been 32% drop in referrals to Memory Assessment Services MAS between September and October 2021. The aim of this session is to have a conversation about current issues and challenges in this area and how places can support improvement. The session is designed for anybody with an interest in dementia including from care providers as well as the voluntary sector, local authority and

the health sector. For more information please follow this [link](#).

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 sam.varo@nhs.net