



Tuesday 30 August 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

Suspension of Routine Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing in Adult Social Care

Please find through this [link](#), new guidance coming into effect from **Wednesday 31 August**. At this time, whilst prevalence of COVID-19 is relatively low, staff should no longer conduct regular asymptomatic staff testing. Some staff without COVID-19 symptoms may be asked to undertake testing as part of rapid response testing for care homes and high-risk extra care and supported living services, or as part of outbreak testing in care homes. At this time, it is not recommended that staff should conduct any further asymptomatic testing beyond these situations.



COVID 19 Vaccination and Flu Vaccination Update

Further information will be communicated to providers around the upcoming winter vaccination programme, but please find information below giving an overview of current plans nationally and eligibility criteria.

- COVID-19 autumn vaccination programme planned start 5 September with gradual increase in capacity with all sites expected to be vaccinating by 19 September
- Flu vaccines are ordered and delivered directly to GP practices and pharmacies and orders will start arriving early September
- Co-administration of covid and flu vacc is recommended (if eligible) and will depend on availability of stock
- Covid programme due to be completed by early December
- Flu vaccination can continue usually until February

COVID 19 Autumn Booster Eligibility (Primary objective is to augment immunity in those at higher risk from COVID-19- There the following groups should be offered a booster vaccine)

- Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Frontline health and social care workers
- All adults aged 50 years and over
- Persons aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, as set out in the Green Book
- Persons aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Persons aged 16 to 49 years who are carers, as set out in the Green Book

Flu Vaccination Eligibility:

- All children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2022, and all primary school aged children (from reception to year 6)
- Secondary school-aged children (focusing on years 7, 8 and 9 following the primary school vaccination visits with any remaining vaccine being offered to years 10 and 11, subject to vaccine availability later still in the season)
- Those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- Pregnant women
- Those aged 65 years and over. later in the season; those aged 50 to 64 years old not in clinical risk groups (including those who turn 50 by 31 March 2023).
- Those in long-stay residential care homes

- Carers
- Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- Frontline staff employed by the following types of social care providers:
registered residential care or nursing home; registered domiciliary care provider;
a voluntary managed hospice; provider; Direct Payment (personal budgets) or
Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants



Registering as a Priority Service or Customer with Utility Companies

Following recent service continuity events such as storms and burst water mains it has been identified that a number of care settings are not registered with their utility companies as a priority service/customer. As a result, when an incident occurs which does not trigger a multi-agency major incident response utility companies use their priority customers information to prioritise a response and not information from other agencies. Therefore, support offered to care settings may be delayed and they would be included in the response to the wider public, which could lead to a lengthy wait before any action is taken. Links to the main utility providers are:

[Services Directory | Northern Powergrid](#)
[Yorkshire Water - Priority services register](#)
[Priority customers | Northern Gas Networks](#)

Please ensure you have registered your service as a priority service/customer and make reference to this in your Business Continuity Plans.



Free Health and Social Care Workers Winter Vaccines Resources- Deadline to Order

Public Health England have made available a range of free resources including stickers, posters and Q&A flyers designed to support health and social care staff in accessing COVID-19 and flu vaccinations this winter. These will continue to be available digitally to download, however the deadline to order hard copies to be delivered is **Wednesday 31 August**. To order these please follow this [link](#) (You

will need to create an account). These may also be beneficial to GP practices and those involved in the vaccination programme. Our team have ordered a small stock which we are able to give to any offers who would like copies after the order deadline has passed.



Capacity Tracker- COVID and Flu Vaccination Questions

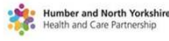
As you will be aware, whilst COVID-19 and flu continues to circulate this Winter, the Capacity Tracker will continue to be the system used at both national and local level to understand uptake of COVID-19 and flu vaccinations and support providers accordingly. As such, the questions to record this information will change as below from **05 September**. As always your support in completing these questions is greatly appreciated, so we can identify any providers needing further assistance to access vaccinations.

Care Homes: (Applying to Residents, Directly Employed Staff and Agency/Bank)

- Number known to have received a full primary course of the COVID vaccination
- Number known to have received an Autumn booster (the Autumn Booster will refer ONLY to those delivered on or after 5 September 2022)
- Number known to have received this season's flu vaccination. Please restrict flu vaccine responses to those that are delivered between September 2022 and March 2023 (inclusive)

Home Care: Providers will now be asked to provide the same information (as above) about staff only.

A full primary course does not include COVID boosters. For most people, a full primary course is defined as 2 doses of COVID vaccination. For a small number of people, however, including people who were vaccinated abroad, people who have received a single-dose vaccination such as Janssen, or people who are severely immunosuppressed, a full primary course may mean a different number of doses.



From 'Assurance' to 'Improvement'- A Guide to Practical Quality Improvement

When: Monday 05 September 1:00-4:00
via Microsoft Teams

Alongside The Improvement Academy, we have arranged a session that is open to any interested members of staff from across the care sector as a guide to practical quality improvement within your service. The session can also be used to count towards CPD and revalidation. For further information and to book your place- please contact sam.varo@nhs.net

Skills for Care Registered Manager Webinar: Preparing for the Winter Pressures Ahead

When: Wednesday 5 October
2022 10:00 – 10:45

This webinar is aimed at frontline managers and will reflect on what we can expect from the upcoming winter period and how best to prepare for it. It will bring together managers from a range of services to talk through how they're developing contingencies for the winter period and practical ways to protect themselves from the impact of staffing challenges. The webinar will also cover the cost of living challenges, the ongoing pandemic and other key issues.

With live panel discussions and debate, the webinar will provide the opportunity to ask questions and learn about different approaches other services are adopting for the winter ahead.

To register, please follow this [link](#)

Contacts for Incident Reporting-Updated Process

- To report any patient safety concerns regarding York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, please complete and submit this [form](#). For York Hospital please send to yhs-tr.s2s@nhs.net or for Scarborough Hospital to freya.oliver@york.nhs.uk. This will allow the Trust to continuously receipt, acknowledge and investigate these concerns.
- 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.



Delegation of Insulin Administration Survey

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are currently piloting some work with care homes to delegate administration of insulin for stable diabetics. To support this work we are re-running a survey from last year, to understand current delegation practice within our area and your thoughts on this project.

If providers would be happy to complete this very brief 3 question [survey](#) that would be a great help. This survey is only designed for care homes falling under York Hospital District Nursing Services (Not for supported living or other services, or those who have Humber district nursing input)

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