

Bulletin 99 - 29 July 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below this week's Provider Bulletin which covers information relating to COVID-19 vaccinations.

Mandatory Vaccinations for Care Home Workers

Covid-19 vaccinations as a condition of employment for care home workers regulations were signed off last week. This means that the regulations will come into force on Thursday 11 November.

For those beginning their vaccination journey, they must have their first dose by Thursday 16 September to allow the eight-week gap between doses and ensure they are fully vaccinated by Thursday 11 November.

The new regulations aim to better protect care home residents from death and serious illness.

Anyone working in a CQC-registered care home in England for residents requiring nursing or personal care must have two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine unless they have a medical exemption.

This will apply to all workers employed directly by the care home or care home provider (on a full-time or part-time basis), those employed by an agency and deployed by the care home, and volunteers deployed in the care home. Those coming into care homes to do other work, for example healthcare workers, tradespeople, hairdressers and beauticians, and CQC inspectors will also have to follow the new regulations, unless they have a medical exemption.

Full guidance is expected in the coming weeks and we'll update you further in a future bulletin.

The Department of Health and Social Care has created a <u>digital asset outlining the</u> <u>timeline</u>, for you to use if you wish.

Encouraging More Pregnant People to be Vaccinated

Health chiefs are encouraging more pregnant women to get their COVID-19 vaccine, as new data shows that 51,724 pregnant women in England have received at least one dose. More information can be found in Public Health England's recent press release

Get vaxxed – enjoy being back

Get vaxxed – enjoy being back is the new Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland campaign created to encourage younger people to get their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Young people across the county, including young health professionals, have been involved in creating the campaign aimed at their peers. It's designed to help them feel safe and confident getting both jabs so that they can get back to doing the things they have missed, whilst protecting themselves and others from becoming seriously ill from the virus.

The campaign was developed in response to local insight that showed young people would be motivated to get vaccinated by positive messages related to getting back to normal and protecting family and friends.

Dr Shaun McGill, Public Health Registrar in Leicestershire, said: "I'm proud to have been involved in such an important local campaign. As a younger person working in public health, it was a good opportunity for me to share how important the Covid vaccinations are. Younger people my age mix more with others, so it gives the virus an opportunity to spread. If we get vaccinated, we can protect vulnerable groups and begin to enjoy getting back to normal with the confidence that the vaccine will help to protect me and other people that we're around."

Please share the #GetVaxxed assets (<u>posters</u> and <u>video</u>) with staff and encourage them to visit <u>https://bit.ly/GetVaxxedLLR</u> to find out about getting their first or second dose.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Wilson Director of Adults and Communities Mike Sandys Director of Public Health

The archive of all previous COVID-19 provider bulletins released since March 2020 can be found at <u>https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/working-with-you-during-coronavirus</u>