Bulletin 106 – 14 September 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached the most recent COVID-19 updates for your teams, in the final days before Thursday's deadline for first vaccinations in care homes.

Two days remaining for care home worker first COVID-19 vaccine doses
There are only two full days left for care home staff to receive their first COVID-19 vaccination in order to be fully vaccinated by 11 November, when new government legislation comes into force. Staff must have had their first dose by the end of Thursday 16 September.

92.1% of care home workers in Leicestershire have now had their first vaccination, with more taking it up daily.

Staff can still receive their vaccination by attending walk-in centres, or by booking an appointment. Appointments are available in 12 local pharmacies, across Leicester and Leicestershire hospitals and at community centres. Walk-in centres for the next few days include:

Location	Day	Date	Times	Vaccine	Doses Available
Merridale Medical Centre	Thursday	16-Sep	10:00-18:00	Pfizer	1st, 2nd
Fosse Medical Centre	Friday	17-Sep	15:00-18:30	AZ, Pfizer	1st, 2nd
Fosse Medical Centre	Friday	17-Sep	15:00-18:30	AZ, Pfizer	1st, 2nd
Melton Sports Village	Saturday	25-Sep	11:00-18:00	Pfizer	1st, 2nd
Melton Sports Village	Sunday	26-Sep	11:00-18:00	Pfizer	1st, 2nd

The Get Vaxxed website contains venue details and availability, as well as guidance on how to book: https://bit.ly/GetVaxxedLLR.

Staff can also call 119 to book an appointment, or the local call centre on 0116 497 5700 between 8am and 8pm prior to the dose 1 deadline.

Medical exemption from vaccination

Unfortunately further detail on medical exemption from vaccination is not yet available nationally, but as described in [bulletin 105](#), there are very few individuals who cannot receive the Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

Care home workers who believe themselves to be medically exempt must discuss this with their GP in time to allow them to receive a dose before the initial 16 September deadline, in the event that they are not exempt.

Business continuity for care homes
Officers will be contacting care homes again after the 16 September 'first dose' deadline to discuss business continuity planning to ensure safe staffing levels from 11 November.

Leicestershire County Council teams will support your planning and recruitment work; however, the Council cannot provide workers to boost staffing levels in care homes in anything other than the most exceptional of circumstances. You are therefore strongly urged to consider any further support to hesitant workers that you can provide before 16 September.

COVID-19 boosters
Detail of eligibility for COVID-19 boosters is expected to be available later today as part of the publication of the government's Autumn and Winter Plan. It is understood that those living in care homes for older adults and face-to-face health and social care workers will be high priority for receiving a booster. Further information will follow as soon as it is available.

Flu immunisation for social care staff: new guidance materials
Flu vaccination for social care staff directly working with people clinically vulnerable to flu is strongly encouraged. Public Health England (PHE) have developed new guidance to staff to support high uptake of the flu vaccine this season.

Those eligible for a flu vaccination include all social care workers.

The materials can be viewed [here](#).

Consultation on mandatory vaccination of health and social care staff
The government has launched a consultation on extending mandatory vaccination to frontline health and wider social care staff in England. Staff may be required to have COVID-19 and flu vaccinations under the proposals.

If introduced, requirements would apply to those with face-to-face contact with patients and clients though the delivery of services as part of a CQC regulated activity. It would mean only those workers that are vaccinated could be deployed (or those with a legitimate medical exemption) to deliver those services.

The consultation is running for 6 weeks and closes at 23.45 on Friday 22 October 2021. The consultation document (including translations to a number of languages) and survey are available at https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/making-vaccination-a-condition-of-deployment-in-the-health-and-wider-social-care-sector

Infection Control and Testing Fund

ICTF2 discretionary fund

A final reminder, following the item in last week's bulletin, that applications for support from the discretionary fund can now be made - more information and the online application form can be found at:
https://surveys.leics.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=160795259818

Two applications can be made, one relating to testing and one relating to infection control. The priority is to support community providers that have not benefited from a 'direct' payment. Home care providers cannot use their 'direct' payment to support testing costs and should therefore make an application to the testing part of the discretionary fund to cover those costs.

Applications cannot be accepted after the closing date, which as previously advised is 15 September.

ICTF2 – 'direct' payments

Funds allocated to some care homes and community providers have not been issued because they have not submitted their ICTF1 final return. Also, some provider payments have not been made because invoices issued in relation to previous underspends have not been paid. In order to receive those ICTF2 payments, those providers must submit their ICTF1 final report and where appropriate, pay outstanding invoices, by 30 September.

If you have any questions, please contact dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

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The archive of all previous COVID-19 provider bulletins released since March 2020 can be found at resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/provider-bulletin