



# Provider Bulletin

Volume 2 Edition 131

November 2020 (1)

[↘ Message from Richard Webb, Corporate Director, Health and Adult Services](#)

[↘ Homecare Agency Testing](#)

[↘ Lateral Flow Devices](#)

[↘ Testing Webinar](#)

[↘ Importance of Ventilation to Reduce Spread of Covid-19](#)

[↘ Flu Vaccinations](#)

[↘ Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund Round 2](#)

[↘ Performing CPR With Symptomatic Individuals](#)

[↘ Government Guidance on Christmas](#)

[↘ Infection Control and Outbreak Management in Care Settings: What it Means For You](#)

[↘ Business Continuity Plans](#)

[↘ Managing the Covid-19 Pandemic in Care Homes for Older People](#)

[↘ Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Seasonal Decorations](#)

[↘ Visiting Care Homes Guidance](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

[↘](#)

Any comments you have about these Bulletins (good or bad!) are welcome. Please contact the Q&MI Team:  
[socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk)

[Message from Richard Webb, Corporate Director, Health and Adult Services](#)

*Dear Colleagues*

Thank you, again, for all you are doing to keep people safe and well as we all work together to try and prevent, contain and manage the second wave of Covid.

Infection rates and restrictions

Fortunately, overall infection rates are now falling again and North Yorkshire as a whole, and most areas within it, are below the England average. However, the number of people in hospital and the number of care home outbreaks is still high and will take some time to reduce. Moreover, infection rates are still five to ten times higher than they were at the start of September. So, as we come out of lockdown this week, we still need to be very mindful that the virus is still out there, community transmission can happen very quickly and we need to continue to be vigilant and to follow all the rules to keep ourselves and those we love and those we support safe.

We have delayed sending this bulletin out because we wanted to update on the post-lockdown restrictions, as well as testing and vaccinations.

North Yorkshire is going to be in tier 2 (High) and the rules will be as follows:

**Key differences in England tier system**

**TIER 1: MEDIUM**

- Follow the rule of six if meeting indoors or outdoors
- Pubs and restaurants to shut at 11pm
- People encouraged to minimise travel and work from home where possible
- Spectators allowed at sports events and live performances (limited numbers)
- Personal care including hairdressing allowed

**TIER 2: HIGH**

- No household mixing indoors
- Rule of six will apply outdoors
- Pubs and restaurants to shut at 11pm
- Alcohol only served as part of substantial meal
- Spectators allowed at sports events and live performances (limited numbers)
- Personal care including hairdressing allowed

**TIER 3: VERY HIGH**

- No household mixing indoors or outdoors in hospitality venues or private gardens
- Rule of six applies in outdoor public spaces like parks
- Pubs/restaurants closed except for delivery and takeaway
- Indoor entertainment venues closed
- Guidance against travelling in and out of the area
- Personal care including hairdressing allowed



Many of us ourselves, or our colleagues, will live in Tier 3 areas. If that's the case, then stricter rules apply. However, if you have to travel to a workplace to undertake an essential job (for example as a care worker), you can do so, as long as you take all necessary precautions. However, you take your Tier 3 restrictions with you, so you cannot undertake other Tier 2 activities and can only undertake essential work.

### Covid and flu vaccinations and Covid testing

There's also a lot happening about vaccinations and testing.

It's good news that there are now several vaccines due to be available soon. Final approvals are still being sought and the NHS is planning for mass vaccination. Please keep in touch with developments as at least one of the vaccines cannot be easily transported and would not be suitable for people living in care homes or who may be house-bound, unless this issue can be overcome. NHS colleagues are looking at potential options for this issue, as well as how vaccinations could take place for residential homes where staff-led vaccination cannot take place.

Please can I also remind everyone about flu vaccinations? I am aware that supplies have been variable but care home residents, people using home care and NHS and care workers are priorities, so please, please persist as it is crucial that as many people as possible get a flu jab and that they have it several weeks before being vaccinated against Covid-19.

On the testing front, the table below summarises the current situation:

*Figure 3: Expansion of testing Status of rapid testing workstreams.*

<b>Rapid testing Strand</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>NHS patient-facing staff:</b> increasing the testing offer to test high-contact staff twice a week	Already underway
<b>Care homes staff and residents:</b> Increasing the frequency of testing, to twice-weekly for staff and weekly for residents	To go live in December
<b>Care home visits:</b> testing will be available for up to two visitors per resident to be tested twice a week in all care homes.	Pilots underway, national rollout from early December
<b>High risk extra care &amp; support living staff and residents:</b> twice weekly testing for staff and weekly for residents	To go live in December
<b>Registered domiciliary care staff:</b> testing available weekly	To start rollout immediately
<b>Other social care settings:</b> testing other home care workers including personal assistants.	Phased introduction from late December
<b>Food manufacturing plants:</b> beginning weekly testing for all staff	Pilots underway, national rollout in December
<b>Closed settings including prisons and asylum centres:</b> weekly testing for all staff and prisoners	Pilots underway, phased introduction to start in December
<b>Vaccine/testing operational staff:</b> weekly testing for key staff in operational delivery and the supply chains	To go live in December

Home care, extra care and supported living testing has already been expanded and we will continue to work with you to help address any problems and to provide any support that you may need.

We understand that some care homes might start to receive lateral flow tests through the testing portal this week. There have been several major announcements towards the end of last week and we are awaiting further clarification about how care home visitor testing will work as we, like you, have concerns about the logistics. We will work together with the NHS, Independent Care Group and the wider network of providers to come up with a North Yorkshire solution. We will also be undertaking webinar training.

### Care Home visiting

Meanwhile, the Keeping In Touch Care Settings Visiting Group is looking at how we can take forward its recommendations on visiting and many thanks to all providers who are identifying infection controlled ways of supporting visits: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/visiting](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/visiting)

### Designated beds

Thank you, too, for those providers who have come forward to provide NHS Designated Discharge Beds and to express an interest in what we are calling "Amber" Beds for people who do not have a Covid diagnosis but who may have been in contact with someone who has. If you are interested or have a query, please contact the generic email address below.

### Funding and insurance

I just wanted to mention local and national funding. We are continuing to make some local payments (for example, for planned day services activity), although have had to cease the 2.5% compensatory payments scheme as the national rules around procurement and State Aid have changed. We do continue to have an expanded hardship scheme in place and we continue to review what else we can do to support. We are sending out the national Infection Prevention Control 2 funding and are hearing rumours, as yet unconfirmed, of further potential funding. It's not yet clear what the additional national funding for adult and children's services, announced by Chancellor, Rishi Sunak MP, in last week's Spending Review, will mean for care services locally.

ICG and ourselves are continuing to use every opportunity to raise points about care provider insurance and are trying to get a more concerted picture of where premia have increased and where providers have had insurance refused.

### Workforce

Like all providers, the County Council responded to the new care workforce regulations and is now looking at how it can respond to these.

### Weekly webinar

In the meantime, just a reminder that we have a weekly NY Care Connected open session every Wednesday 5-6pm. Please join in and I look forward to talking with you. You can join the sessions here:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/210744229>

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/210744229>

### Contacting the County Council

Just a reminder that we can be contacted by all providers via our dedicated email account

[socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk)

As ever, I would like to thank you for all your continued hard work and to pay tribute to your teams and our frontline colleagues.

Best wishes,

Richard

### Homecare Agency Testing

NHS Test & Trace are rolling out a programme of weekly testing for homecare staff working in adult social care, this includes all registered domiciliary care providers. A series of webinars have been held so that the process could be explained. Registered Managers can order a 28 day supply of tests for staff, 4 tests per staff member, each 28 day testing cycle. Staff should take the test every 7 days, register it on line and return via a priority Royal Mail post box, between Thursday and Sunday each week. Results are communicated via email and text message.

Providers will need to set up a process to keep track of all staff tests completed and results received so that appropriate action is taken.

As part of this process registered care providers in Extra Care and supported living are able to order tests for other permanently based staff such as housing and domestic staff. Providers should liaise with these staff groups to ensure all colleagues are able to access routine testing.

Providers should include information regarding test results on the survey they complete for NYCC. This information will be considered alongside care homes data and, where appropriate, Care Settings Support Officers (CSSOs) will contact providers to discuss their specific circumstances.

As a result of increased testing there is potential for a number of staff who are asymptomatic being required to self isolate. Providers should ensure they have updated their Business Continuity Plans to take account of rapid reduction in staffing levels, ensure all people supported have been RAG rated in case an adjustment to packages of support needs to be considered and that providers understand their minimum staffing levels.

Government is also rolling out one round of whole scheme testing for Extra Care Housing and Supported Living settings which meet a specific criteria. Providers will have been notified of schemes which meet the Department of Health and Social Care criteria. If providers have already ordered their testing kits through this model they should continue with this process to test staff and residents. Once this is complete, providers should switch to the Homecare Agency Testing route to ensure regular testing of staff. This will ensure residents/tenants receive the testing and help the DHSC establish prevalence of Covid 19 in these settings nationally. Providers who have not started to test through this approach should undertake staff testing through the new Homecare Agency Testing programme and undertake testing for tenants/people receiving support through the Extra Care Housing/Supported Living model. People who use services cannot be tested via the Homecare Agency Testing arrangements.

## Lateral Flow Devices

Government has announced that Lateral Flow Devices will be rolled out to care homes across the country from this week. Information is still being released, however it is clear that LFD's will not replace the current swabbing arrangements but will be in addition to that process. A webinar has been arranged to support providers with this process. *The webinar details are:*

Thursday 3 December 2020 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (GMT)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/150200405>

You can also dial in using your phone.

(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly)

United Kingdom: +44 20 3713 5028

- One-touch: <tel:+442037135028>, [150200405#](tel:+442037135028)

Access Code: 150-200-405

## Testing Webinar

A webinar is being planned for next week to cover the range of testing arrangements which are being introduced across the care sector to support providers with the aim of clarifying requirements for the various adult social care settings. Information will be shared once arrangements have been confirmed.

## Importance of Ventilation to Reduce Spread of Covid-19

A short film has been released by the Government which shows how coronavirus lingers in enclosed spaces and how to keep your home ventilated. To view the film click on the following link [New film shows importance of ventilation to reduce spread of COVID-19](#)

## Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccines continue to be rolled out, with supplies of vaccines being delivered to GP and pharmacies regularly. If there are limited supplies providers and staff are advised to continue to try to obtain one as priority is being given to health and social care staff. Vaccinations are available from GPs and pharmacies.

A recent extra from the Capacity Tracker showed that only 31% of staff employed by those providers completing the tracker had had a flu vaccination. Only 2% of agency staff had done so. Given that there needs to be a gap between the flu vaccination and any new Covid-19 vaccination, we would urge providers to encourage their staff to access flu vaccinations as soon as possible.

## Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund Round 2

As you may be aware there has been a delay in distributing funding to domiciliary care providers. This delay has, in part, been as a result of a different approach being taken throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region than originally anticipated. As a result HAS will be allocating funding to providers registered within North Yorkshire. This is following confirmation that the other local authorities in the region are taking this approach. Therefore, Grant Agreements will be issued to providers who have submitted authorised signatory information. If you have not supplied this information please contact [socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk). For providers registered outside North Yorkshire you should receive funding from your host local authority. We apologise for the delay in progressing this.

Providers are reminded that they must complete the Capacity Tracker/Community Support Provider Survey at least weekly to be able to access the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund Round 2. If providers fail to complete the tracker/survey at least weekly their funding will be withheld and may be reclaimed as this is a funding condition set by central Government. The information gathered through these tools is analysed at a local, regional and national level and informs a range of decisions and actions which affect the adult social care market locally.

Also, HAS issues surveys to collate data for a return to the DHSC, which evidences how funding is being used and to confirm that any expenditure is in line with the grant conditions. Returns received for the first return were exceptionally low. Please ensure you complete these surveys, which are detailed in the Grant Agreement, so that that DHSC can receive the additional assurance they require.

## Performing CPR With Symptomatic Individuals

The Department for Health and Social Care has published [guidance](#) for performing CPR on individuals with confirmed or symptomatic COVID-19. This was written for first responders but will also be relevant to care providers.

Information has also been shared by Resuscitation Council UK <https://www.resus.org.uk/covid-19-resources/covid-19-resources-general-public/resuscitation-council-uk-statement-covid-19>

## Government Guidance on Christmas

The Government has issued guidance in relation to Christmas bubbles. The link to the guidance is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family>

The guidance currently relates to care homes. HAS is currently considering the guidance and how we respond. HAS has contacted Public Health England and the DHSC to request guidance for supported living and other settings so that there is a clear understanding of expectations.

### **Infection Control and Outbreak Management in Care Settings: What it Means For You**

A webinar is arranged to discuss infection control and outbreak management in care settings. The webinar will last for approximately 1 hour and multiple sessions will be arranged so that providers are given an opportunity to attend. Information will be shared once the webinars have been confirmed.

### **Business Continuity Plans**

When reviewing Business Continuity Plans providers will need to consider their plans in relation to evacuation of services. Providers may have arrangements in place to relocate to another care setting, however, this needs to be considered in light of the current pandemic and the risks of moving people to and from settings which may have current Covid positive cases and the risks relating to infection prevention and control. Business Continuity Planning will be covered at a NYCareConnected weekly webinar and a colleague from the Local Resilience Forum will be joining the discussion to provide advice.

### **Managing the Covid-19 Pandemic in Care Homes for Older People**

The British Geriatric Society has produced guidance for care homes on managing the Covid-19 pandemic. The guidance can be viewed via the following link:

<https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/covid-19-managing-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-care-homes>

### **Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Seasonal Decorations**

The latest Bulletins from the Community Infection Prevention and Control Team focus on 'Guidance for seasonal decorations during Covid-19'. The bulletins can be viewed using the following links:

[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/news/ipc-bulletin-for-care-homes/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/news/ipc-bulletin-for-care-homes/)

<https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/news/ipc-bulletin-for-domiciliary-care/>

### **Visiting Care Homes Guidance**

The current visiting guidance can be viewed via <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus-covid-19>. We will continue to review this guidance as additional information is released by central government and to reflect the roll out of testing arrangements.