



Provider Bulletin

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

Welcome

Dear Colleagues

Please find in this bulletin, further updates we wish to share with you.

We find ourselves remaining on step 3 of the Government's road map out of pandemic restrictions, with step 4 delayed for a further month. Cases across North Yorkshire have been rising and as of the 17th of June, the 7-day rate per 100,000 stood at 71 within North Yorkshire. It is therefore imperative that we respond as before, with confidence and care for each other.

Please be confident in the vaccine. When offered your first or second jab, please take it, as this is our best defence against Covid-19. In addition, it is important that we keep practising the basics of hands, face, space and fresh air, which are vital in keeping us all and our loved ones safe.

Finally, I wanted to remind you that we have a weekly North Yorkshire Care Connected open session every Wednesday 17:00pm - 18:00pm. Please take the time to 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>

Best wishes,
Richard Webb

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Admission and care of people in Care Homes

Please see attached the latest Government Guidance for admission and care of people in care homes. This guidance is for care homes, local health protection teams, local authorities, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and registered providers of accommodation for people who need personal or nursing care.

It sets out how to:

- Admit and care for residents safely
- Protect care home staff

Link to the Guidance is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes>

Updated Guidance

[Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) illustrated guide for community and social care settings](#) and [putting on and taking off](#) PPE info graph. This guidance was updated on the 9th June 2021 for care homes and domiciliary care providers.

[Overview of adult social care guidance on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) This guidance was updated 10th June 2021 and includes new information on:

- Funding for social care.
- Defining and reporting outbreaks in social care.
- Testing for recipients of social care.
- Updating contact information for the NSDR.
- Information for care staff.
- Information on the capacity tracker.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for personal assistants](#) updated 10th June 2021 to include anyone working in adult social care, who is not receiving regular testing in England, can access twice-weekly COVID-19 testing.

[Organisation testing registration](#) updated 15th June 2021. For care homes, there is a new version of the record keeping multiple registration spreadsheet to use from the 19th of May 2021. The updated spreadsheet will let you register both PCR test kits and rapid lateral flow tests at the same time.

[Arrangements for visiting out of the care home](#) Updated 15th June, this guidance sets out how care homes can support residents on visits outside of the care home.

[Visiting arrangements in care homes](#) – Updated 17th June, this guidance sets out how care homes can support families and visitors to visit residents.

[Supported living services during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) - A substantive update that aligns guidance with other policy, including testing, infection prevention and control. Also includes additional information about visiting for individuals living in supported living, in line with national restrictions.

Department of Health and Social Care Press Release - Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents> This is a press release from the Department of Health and Social Care, in relation to everyone who works within a care home will be required to be fully vaccinated.

This new legislation, which is still subject to Parliamentary approval and a subsequent 16-week grace period, means that from October anyone working in a CQC-registered care home in England for residents requiring nursing or personal care must have 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine unless they have a medical exemption.

It 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.

Also, 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.

North Yorkshire County Council will continue to monitor the Capacity Tracker on a regular basis and liaise with providers where we identify that their current staff take up of the vaccine is low and discuss what support is available to encourage staff members to accept the vaccine. In light of the DHSC press release, we recommend that all providers review and ensure that their Business Continuity Plans are up to date. In particular Staffing and how the potential loss of staff may affect your service to operate safely.

Vaccination Update

The Covid-19 vaccine rollout in England has now been extended further so that people aged 18 and over can book a Covid-19 Vaccination Appointment.

To book your COVID-19 vaccination, read about the vaccines and find out further information on the vaccine please click on the link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar – Social Care Workers

On the 21st of May, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) hosted a webinar with Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Dr Nikita Kanani, Director of Primary Care at NHS England. The webinar gave social care workers the opportunity to have their questions answered about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines.

DHSC has made the webinar available online for those who were unable to attend and you can access this now via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ot5Oj6r9zvQ>

National Provider Q&A Call

Every Tuesday, running from the 4th May 2021 to 6th July 2021, between 13:00pm - 14:00pm, you are invited to attend the weekly national Provider Q&A call. This is for where all provider types can have any questions they need answered, hear about new developments and requirements for using the Capacity Tracker system.

This is an opportunity for you to be supported directly by the central Capacity Tracker team in updating and using the Capacity Tracker system and is key to you providing safe patient service, protecting acute capacity and keeping business viability where relevant.

Please click on the link below to join the call during the time indicated above. If you are unable to click on the link to join please right click on your mouse and open hyperlink, this will also enable you to join.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Latest Coronavirus advice and information from NYCC

For North Yorkshire County Councils latest Coronavirus advice and information please click the link <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Personal Protective Equipment and Heat: Risk of Heat Stress

Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) in warm/hot environments increases the risk of heat stress. This occurs when the body is unable to cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature. Heat stress can cause heat exhaustion and lead to heat stroke if the person is unable to cool down.

Measures to control the temperature of clinical environments and enable staff to make behavioural adaptations to stay cool and well hydrated should be made. Staff may require more frequent breaks and the frequency of PPE changes may increase, with a resulting increase in demand.

Please see attached the document **PHE PPE and Heat - Risk of Heat Stress** to help you put plans in place for this summer coming.

Portable Fans

Portable fans have been linked to cross-infection in some health and social care settings. Dust and debris can naturally accumulate within the internal body of the blades of fans and this provides a reservoir for microorganisms. Each use and reuse should be risk assessed. Decontamination and maintenance schedules must be in place. Please see attached **IPC Portable Fans June 2021** document from the Infection Prevention and Control Team for more information on the use of Portable Fans.

EU Settlement Scheme - Guidance

The final deadline for EU/EEA citizens and family members to apply for settled status is 30th June 2021. EU/EEA citizens and family members who don't have settled or pre-settled status, or who haven't applied by the 30th of June, won't have the right to be in the UK, claim benefits, use the NHS, etc.

We are particularly mindful that more people that are vulnerable may not have access to their documents, regular online access or indeed access to bona fide legal advice. Visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/eu-settlement-scheme or <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families> for further advice. Please check with your employees or those you care for that may need support.

Safeguarding Week 2021

A virtual, online conference will take place this week (Monday 21 and Friday 25 June), to mark Safeguarding Week 2021. Everybody has a part to play in keeping themselves, friends and family, employees and our wider community safe.

Partners from Safeguarding Adults Boards, Children's Safeguarding Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships across North Yorkshire, the City of York and East Riding have come together to develop an extensive programme of learning events, seminars and interactive sessions which all underpin this year's theme, 'Safeguarding is everybody's business'.

As well as learning events for safeguarding professionals, there will be online sessions for which anyone is welcome to register. These cover a range of topics, including using online banking in safety (by North Yorkshire Police) and reducing loneliness and isolation (East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board, East Riding Council).

To view the full programme and register please click on the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/safeguarding-week-21-25-june-2021-8180759244>

To read more about the Safeguarding week conference please click on the link:

<https://northyorkshire.police.uk/news/safeguarding-week-2021-free-virtual-conference-programme-announced/>

The DHSC Resources

The Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, Deborah Sturdy, has launched a new campaign, '[Every Action Counts: Because I Care](#)', stressing the importance of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures for care providers, staff and visitors. New resources from the DHSC: Every Action Counts

The 'Every Action Counts' suite of resources to support adult social care providers achieve excellence in infection prevention and control. The resources include posters, digital key cards and hints and tips, supporting compliance and awareness, leadership, morale and wellbeing, training and operational interventions.

The [Every Action Counts toolkit](#) has been developed to support adult social care providers to use the resources effectively.

'Every Action Counts' resources:

[Download the staff assets](#)

[Download the visitor assets](#)

[Download the operational assets](#)

You can access all information [here](#) on the Skills for Care website.

To keep up to date with information from The DHSC sign up to their bulletin via this [link](#)

MCA/DoLS Team Update

The MCA DoLS Team have been busy behind the scenes, reviewing opportunities to make our processes more efficient and starting discussions about Liberty Protection Safeguards, due to be implemented in April 2022. Once we have had sight of the new Codes of Practice, which are due to be released soon, we will endeavour to provide the relevant updates.

One change in our process, effective immediately, is the requirement for the referrals to be signed. From today, Managing Authorities no longer need to manually sign the forms requesting a DoLS Authorisation. The referral must be attached to an identifiable e-mail address.

Due to the continued high volume of referrals, we continue to use the ADASS prioritisation tool. We are therefore reliant on the information on your forms, to identify high priority issues such as challenges to the care regime, from the person, or their family (verbally or behaviour), covert medication protocols or any care that amounts to chemical or physical restraint.

If you need to discuss any particular cases, please contact the DoLS team and ask to speak to the duty worker on: dols@northyorks.gov.uk or 01609 536829. (Please send referrals to social.care@northyorks.gov.uk)

Weekend Working Discharges - Workshop

Since March 2020 (in response to the revised Hospital Discharge Policy) North Yorkshire County Council have moved to a seven-day week working model, to support hospital discharges. We have found that for many areas in our system, this presents a real challenge, and notably the rate of discharges that we achieve over a weekend is much lower than those achieved Monday to Friday.

Therefore, we are holding a workshop to consider how, we, as collective agencies, can mitigate and potentially eliminate the issue of reduced weekend discharges with the following objectives:

- Understand our activity and our current baseline.
- Be clear on the current barriers to discharges occurring on a weekend.
- Consider the collective opportunities across agencies to improve the rate of discharges over the weekend.
- Share best practice and learn from other partners.
- Agree a collective improvement plan.

We therefore would welcome independent sector providers from within North Yorkshire, for both Domiciliary Care and Residential Care to attend and to join us. If you would be interested in attending this future workshop please contact Integration@northyorks.gov.uk

Coronavirus Data as at 17th June 2021

