



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.

Just a reminder that we have a weekly North Yorkshire 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>

These sessions will be held every Wednesday at 5pm.

Best wishes,

Richard

Staff Returning to Work After Shielding

Some of you may have staff who have been required to shield on medical grounds. The shielding period is due to come to an end on 1 April 2021. All those on the shielded list should now have been offered their vaccination. People on the shielded list should be starting to receive letters with updated guidance on what they can do to reduce their risk. We recommend a risk assessed approach to supporting people who have been shielding to return to the workplace that considers occupational health advice as well as any clinical advice already provided.

Visiting Professionals Lateral Flow Test

Following some recent feedback we would like to remind organisations that staff, including visiting professionals, are not required to undertake a lateral flow test if they have tested positive for Covid-19 from a PCR test within the previous 90 days. In the case of visiting professionals, they should be able to provide proof of a positive PCR test if this applies to them. All individuals should continue to isolate in line with national guidance if they receive a positive PCR test, but do not need to retest once out of isolation unless they start to display symptoms.

Vaccine Uptake in Agency Staff

We have attempted to make contact with all the staffing agencies who we are aware deploy staff across North Yorkshire. Unfortunately, both locally and nationally the uptake of the vaccine by agency staff has been low. NYCC have offered support to agencies to encourage uptake amongst staff registered on their books and can continue to do so where any agency staff come forward for vaccines.

We would strongly recommend that your checks for employing agency staff includes a check on their vaccination status. This is in addition to the checks required to adhere to the guidance for [restricting staff movement between care settings](#). CQC will be seeking assurances that vaccination status has been checked and risk assessed before any agency staff are deployed as will the NYCC teams as part of any IPC reviews that are completed. It is essential that we continue to do all we can to reduce the risk of future outbreaks in our care settings and that we can demonstrate this when checks are made.

National Lockdown - Changes on 29th March 2021

Details of the changes to the national lockdown rules can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#how-the-rules-will-change-on-29-march>

Webinar - "Care Home Visiting"

The DHSC and the Better Care Fund have been hosting a series of webinars throughout February and March to support staff working in the care sector to deliver safe and compassionate care. This webinar will focus on how care providers can facilitate visiting safely, the importance and benefits of enabling visitors to come back into care homes and share some of the practical things that will ensure the risks are minimised.

Speakers will include Mark Browne, Head of New Models of Care DHSC, Helen Press, the Head of Quality and Improvement at National Care Provider MHA, Ben Maredia, Director - Ideal Care North Ltd, Liz Jones, Policy Director at the National Care Forum and Karen Spilsbury, Daughter.

The webinar is aimed at registered managers, care home providers and local authority and health colleagues to support sector-led improvement and ensure that best practice and innovative ideas are disseminated across the sector.

There will also be a Q&A Panel at the end of the webinar to provide an opportunity for questions to be raised and discussions. The Panel will include the presenters as well as Ros Sanderson, Head of Inspection at the Care Quality Commission and Mick Shannon, Public Health Strategic Manager at Durham County Council.

Date: 25th March 2021 | Time: 3:00-4:00pm | Chair: Ann Workman, Director of Adults and Health, Stockton-upon-Tees Borough Council

To book your place on the webinar, please use the link below:-

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/care-home-visiting-webinar-tickets-146557829413>

National Day of Reflection

A minute's silence and a national doorstep vigil will form part of a day of reflection to mark the anniversary of the UK's first Covid lockdown. Prime Minister Boris Johnson is backing charity Marie Curie's plan for Tuesday 23 March, when those who have died in the pandemic will be remembered. There will be a minute's silence at 12:00 GMT with people encouraged to light up their doorsteps that night. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/day-of-reflection>

Latest Information From NYCC

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Coronavirus Data as at 18th March 2021

