

ACHIVED- Latest update for service providers – December 2020

Extra care and supported living testing arrangements

Regular testing for both residents and staff is now being rolled out, where residents will be tested every 28 days and staff every week. This applies to only those services that meet the eligibility criteria: the service is CQC registered to deliver personal care; and the service is shared by multiple people within a closed community with substantial facilities.

Full guidance is available [here](#)

Orders for testing kits should be placed every 28 days [from here](#)

This was initially set up as a one-off programme of testing but has been extended and rolled out into a regular programme. The Local Authority has provided details to DHSC about eligible settings and these settings will have previously received emails about this.

DHSC has now created a self-referral portal for individual organisations to use [here](#).

One hour webinars have been set up to provide detailed information about all aspects of this testing programme. https://event.webcasts.com/viewer/portal.jsp?ei=1380165&tp_key=dfecd07a9d

A youtube video demonstrates how to administer nasal and throat swabs for residents that cannot do this for themselves Coronavirus test tutorial for care homes with Dr Sarah Jarvis - YouTube

Another video demonstrating this is [available here](#)

If providers have further questions they are asked to call 119 to get through to the specialist team.

Covid-19 vaccine

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is now being rolled out, in a priority order. Group 1 includes residents in a care home for older adults and their carers; group 2 includes frontline health and social care workers and we are asking organisations to prepare for this.

Care home managers should:

- Put together staff lists including basic details (name, gender, date of birth, NHS number, GP details) for each staff member
- Be ready to provide each staff member with a letter confirming their employment in the care sector
- Keep staff records of vaccinations and report this through the Capacity Tracker (as is already happening with flu vaccinations)
- Consider logistics to maintain staffing levels while releasing staff to receive their vaccine
- **Take steps now to ensure staff understand the need for obtaining consent, so that they can help residents and families complete the necessary forms when a vaccine is ready to be delivered within a care home**

A number of online resources have been published providing more information about the covid-19 vaccine and the programme to roll it out. This includes:

- [Posters that you can download](#)
- [A guide for social care staff](#)
- [For more information about the care homes programme](#)

Care home visitor testing

National guidance (last updated on 2nd December) describes how the rapid testing programme can support covid-secure visiting and sets out the requirement that visitors wear PPE [here](#).

Care homes should have received an e-mail before Friday 18th December to confirm your home will be receiving an order of the testing kits (COVID-19 LFT kits), which can be used for visitors testing and increased resident and staff testing. Guidance details what care homes need to do in preparation for and managing the rapid testing programme.

Capacity tracker

Capacity Tracker now includes CQC registered homecare providers. Updates have been made to Capacity Tracker (updated Thursday December 10, 2020 midnight) for which you should have previously received an email update. Please note the website has changed and is now at www.capacitytracker.com

NHSMail and the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT)

The DSPT Toolkit has now been revised and guidance for this is available [here](#).

For anyone that would like to discuss NHSMail and the DSPT please e-mail england.dsptnorth@nhs.net

Infection control grant – round 2 – for CQC registered services

The second round of the infection control grant (IFC) is for both CQC registered care home settings and community providers (including homecare, extra care, supported living); and covers the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021. Further information can be found [here](#).

North Tyneside Council is making payments to those providers that are registered in North Tyneside and the value is allocated based on Government guidance. The first payment has already been paid to cover October to December. The second payment is due to be paid shortly to cover January to March. Both payments are for the same value.

Service providers in receipt of a payment must

- Regularly update [Capacity Tracker](#)
- Agree to the grant conditions (Please see below). If you haven't done so already, please sign a copy of this and return by e-mail to commissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk
- Complete the provider return (Please see below) every month and return by email to careproviderclaims@northtyneside.gov.uk

If a provider does not complete these actions the Authority reserves the right not to pay the second half of funding and may also require repayment of the first half.

Some providers may have problems with SOPHOS e-mail encryption and viewing attachments. If this is the case please e-mail commissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk and supply another e-mail address that these documents can be sent to.

Test and Trace

The Government's new Test and Trace business plan aims to prevent covid-19 transmission and enable people to return towards a normal way of life. You can [visit the website](#) to find out more

Local arrangements for community testing and contact tracing

North Tyneside Council is one of the local authorities in England selected to undertake rapid testing (lateral flow testing) in response to the covid-19 pandemic. A Community Rapid Testing Covid-19 programme will launch in North Tyneside in January 2021 for an initial period of six weeks. This is community asymptomatic testing to help identify and isolate residents who have covid-19 but do not have any symptoms and may inadvertently spread the virus.