

PROVIDER BULLETIN

VCOD 2 SUSPENDED AND CONSULTATION ANNOUNCED

We would like to start with thanking you and your staff in support the vaccination programme, by getting your/their vaccines, and protecting the vulnerable of the Bradford District by doing so.

Sajid Javid addressed parliament yesterday evening, 31 January 2022, and confirmed that the requirement for vaccination a condition of deployment (VCOD) for health and wider social care has been revoked. VCOD will be reviewed under new consultation and a decision will be made on whether or not for this to be discontinued, for the NHS, wider social care and care homes.

Therefore the VCOD2 deadlines of the 3rd February and 1st April currently not a requirement at this stage. However, we await further written confirmation from Central Government of their stance and the details of this change, or pause, in the VCOD rollout for health and social care.

I understand that this may raise more queries than it answers, please contact our duty desk should you have any questions or require any support and we will support you during the course of the day, but will also collate all the queries for an FAQ section in the bulletin later today to be shared across all providers.

CARE HOME WITH UNVACCINATED STAFF RATED INADEQUATE

A care home has been rated inadequate by CQC after health inspectors found it was employing unvaccinated staff. Lilibet House in De Parys Avenue, Bedford, was found to be inadequate in all areas by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). They found three unvaccinated care staff working in close contact with vulnerable people and highlighted safeguarding and cleaning concerns. You can read the full story on BBC News with this [LINK](#).

We felt it was important to highlight this issue for our provider as the VCOD rules currently remain in place for care homes. Please ensure that all your systems are robust and up-to-date and that you continue to update the Capacity Tracker.

GALAXKEY GUIDE

Instructions on how to use Galaxkey have been uploaded to the Provider Zone and can be downloaded [HERE](#)

BCA UPDATES

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM BCA

Beware - Ransomware attacks

Ransomware attacks on SMEs including social care organisations are on the increase and we expect this to worsen in 2022 as the Log4j vulnerability is identified and exploited by malicious actors.

The Better Security, Better Care programme is seeking to better understand how prepared social care providers are in the event of a cyber-attack and, additionally, how this relates to their DSPT status.

Better Security, Better Care have created a survey and would be very grateful if your could fill it out to help with future issues around attacks.

Please see link below for survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XDP5FMM>



Please email admin@bradfordcareassociation.org if you're having any trouble trying to access the survey



**OUR
MEMBERS
FACEBOOK
PAGE IS
LIVE!
CLICK
HERE TO
ACCESS
THE PAGE**

REGISTERED MANAGERS WHATSAPP GROUP

It is an opportunity to link with others so we can learn from each other's experiences, share good practice and importantly contribute to shaping how the sector collectively responds to our new normal. The invitation is open to all Registered and Senior Managers.

**SEND YOUR NUMBER, NAME
AND ORGANISATION TO
07807799456 TO JOIN!**

BCA MEETINGS + ZOOM INFO

You can access all BCA's Meetings using the Zoom information below.

Meeting ID: 933 772 1608
Password: Bradford20

Provider Update - Tuesday 10:30-11:30

IPC Meeting - Tuesday 10:30 - 11:30

Please note the Provider Update and IPC run alternative to each other

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT VIA TELEMEDS

Older people's mental health service has been providing support and advice as a dedicated service during the Covid 19 pandemic as part of the Telemedicine. The service operates every day 4pm to 7pm Monday to Friday and 1pm to 7pm Saturday and Sunday.

We are experienced older people's nurses and consultants covering the telehealth and we can provide advice to the care homes and support medication advice for the super rota GP's covering telehealth. We are also able to signpost any concerns you have to the relevant teams if you need mental health support for your residents.

If you contact telemedicine please be clear that you are requesting mental health support so the telehealth person dealing with your call can contact us.

FEBYOUARY

This February we're encouraging organisations across Bradford District and Craven to promote health and wellbeing to all their staff by sharing a wellbeing calendar, FebYOUary.

There's a lot of pressure on people to make New Year's resolution ie getting back into shape, put a stop or to cut down on alcohol, and making other commitments like trying to save money and making a conscious effort in what we do. We're not asking colleagues to make a commitment to do something but to take small steps to improve their health and wellbeing, as well as others around them.

You can download the wellbeing calendar [HERE](#)

Staff working in health and care can also visit the [Health and Wellbeing Virtual Hub website](#), this includes resources and top tips on how to look after your health and wellbeing.



NHS

**SINCE MAY 2021,
98%
OF PREGNANT
WOMEN ADMITTED
TO HOSPITAL WITH
COVID-19 WERE
UNVACCINATED.**

GET BOOSTED NOW nhs.uk/covidvaccination

HMRC STATUTORY SICK PAY REBATE SCHEME

The Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme (SSPRS) has been temporarily reintroduced to support employers facing heightened levels of sickness absence due to COVID-19. If you're a small or medium-sized employer with under 250 employees, you may be eligible to claim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) costs for up to two weeks per employee for COVID-19 related absences from 21 December 2021.

While this is a reintroduction of the scheme which ran until 30 September 2021, it is a new claims period, which means you can claim for eligible employees whether or not you claimed for them under the previous scheme.

Make sure you have the latest information by joining our webinar, COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme 2, which includes:

- who can claim for SSPR
- when to start paying SSP
- what you can claim under SSPR
- making a claim
- connected companies or charities
- keeping records.

During this interactive webinar you can ask questions using the on-screen text box and download handouts giving detailed examples and links to more information. Unfortunately, we are not able to give advice or discuss personal circumstances.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Afterwards we'll also send you a link to a video recording of the webinars in case you'd like to see any of it again. We will continue to update our webinars to reflect the latest information as it becomes available.


HM Government





WE'VE BEEN BOOSTED

JOIN US LET'S GET PROTECTED

Over time, two doses do not give you enough protection against Covid-19.

[NHS.UK/COVIDVACCINATION](https://www.nhs.uk/COVIDVACCINATION)

GET
BOOSTED
NOW

[COVID-19: how to work safely in domiciliary care in England](#)

Page summary:

A resource for those working in domiciliary care providing information on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Change made:

Removed out of date self-isolation policy information from the 'What has changed' section.

Time updated: 1:25pm, 24 January 2022

[Test and Trace Support Payment scheme: claiming financial support](#)

Page summary:

Who can claim the support and how to apply.

Change made:

Removed information regarding self-isolation change for contacts of Omicron cases which ended on 13 December 2021.

Time updated: 12:57pm, 25 January 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for people receiving direct payments](#)

Page summary:

Advice for people who buy care and support through a direct payment, as well as local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and those who provide care and support.

Change made:

Updated 'Using direct payments during the coronavirus outbreak: full guidance for people receiving direct payments and personal assistants' to reflect the latest guidance on the COVID-19 booster programme, travel and self-isolation, and the extension of the free PPE scheme until 2023.

Time updated: 3:39pm, 26 January 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing service for extra care and supported living settings](#)

Page summary:

Guidance on regular testing for extra care and supported living (ECSL) settings that meet the eligibility criteria.

Change made:

Updated to reflect the removal of confirmatory PCR after a positive LFT and updated advice on testing within 90 days of a positive result.

Time updated: 5:31pm, 26 January 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): providing home care](#)

Page summary:

Information for those providing personal care to people living in their own home during the coronavirus outbreak.

Change made:

Updated self-isolation and international travel advice to reflect the lifting of Plan B. Added information on the new funding added to the Omicron Support Fund.

Time updated: 5:37pm, 31 January 2022

[Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund: round 3](#)

Page summary:

Sets out the measures that round 3 of the Infection Control and Testing Fund supports, including distribution of funds, conditions and reporting requirements.

Change made:

Updated the 'Annex E: local authority reporting template: reporting point 2, due 28 February 2022' to accommodate additional reporting for the Omicron Support Fund. Please see the guidance on the Adult Social Care Omicron Support Fund for further details.

Time updated: 5:26pm, 31 January 2022

[Visiting arrangements in care homes](#)

Page summary:

Sets out how care homes can support families and visitors to visit residents.

Change made:

Updated to reflect the fact that there is now no limit on visitor numbers; following a normal visit out, residents do not need to test or self-isolate; and, following an emergency hospital stay or other high-risk visit out, residents should self-isolate for 10 days, with testing arrangements to end isolation sooner.

Time updated: 7:03pm, 31 January 2022



[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for anyone working in adult social care who are not part of regular testing at work and unpaid carers](#)

Page summary:

How anyone working in adult social care in England who is not part of a regular testing regime at work can access twice-weekly COVID-19 testing.

Change made:

Updated to reflect the removal of confirmatory PCR after a positive LFT and updated advice on testing within 90 days of a positive result.

Time updated: 5:32pm, 26 January 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for homecare workers: information for agencies](#)

Page summary:

Sets out how homecare agencies in England can order regular tests for their homecare (domiciliary care) staff.

Change made:

Updated to reflect the removal of confirmatory PCR after a positive LFT and updated advice on testing within 90 days of a positive result.

Time updated: 5:32pm, 26 January 2022

[How to do a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow test](#)

Page summary:

Find out how to do a rapid lateral flow test for COVID-19 and report the results. Rapid tests are only for people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

Change made:

Added Be My Eyes app information: live video call with NHS Test and Trace staff to help people to take a COVID-19 test and report the result.

Time updated: 9:56am, 27 January 2022

[Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions and what makes a good one](#)

Page summary:

This page explains what face coverings are, including what makes a good one, when to wear a face covering and exemptions from wearing one.

Change made:

Updated guidance to reflect the face covering regulations coming to an end on 26 January 2022.

Time updated: 10:31am, 27 January 2022



GOV.UK