



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

For more information on the Council's current position, in respect of Covid 19 please use this website: [CLICK HERE](#) Please ensure any information you consult is from a reliable source, including the NHS, or Public Health England.

PROVIDER BULLETIN

Tuesday 21 December 2021



IMPORTANT UPDATES

- **Bradford Royal Infirmary** are now able to offer social care staff a 'walk in and receive a vaccination' service at the BRI site, in the lecture theatre. Appointments are also available on the National Booking System so if you would prefer to book an allotted time you can do so. BRI are open from 08:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 19:30 every day except for Christmas Eve (24 December). Christmas Day (25 December), Boxing Day (26 December), New Year's Eve (31 December), and New Year's Day (1 January). Please bring a form of ID and your NHS number to receive the vaccine.
- **Priority access to Covid-19 Booster vaccinations for social care workers:** DHSC has published the attached letter – "[COVID-19 Booster priority at vaccination centres for social care workers and unpaid carers](#)" – with information for system leaders and providers on how social care workers and unpaid carers can be prioritised for their booster vaccinations. Please circulate this letter as appropriate directly to your staff.
- **Taking sick leave:** Employees can take time off work if they're ill. They need to give their employer proof if they're ill for more than 28 days. If they're ill just before or during their holiday, they can take it as sick leave instead. For more information: <https://www.gov.uk/taking-sick-leave>
- **Guidance Updates:** We anticipate that several pieces of guidance may be updated in the coming days including testing guidance for most social care settings to reflect the increase in LFD testing, and updates to the admissions to care home guidance and designated settings guidance. We will circulate updates as we spot them. There may be other last-minute updates to other guidance and we will keep you informed.
- **Useful Links:** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult social care guidance](#); [Infection Control and Testing Fund – Extension March 2021](#); [Professionals Visiting Care Homes](#). For more links, click [HERE](#) to access our Provider Zone.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MIKE HORSLEY

Nurse Manager Infection Prevention - Public Health

As we approach Christmas there is a real sense of déjà vu with Covid-19 cases rising, a new variant causing concern and the possibility of further restrictions after the holiday period. The main difference from last year however is that then vaccinations against Covid-19 were only just starting to be rolled out whereas this year the majority of staff and service users have had at least two doses of the vaccine and many more have now also had a booster dose.

Whilst vaccinations are an important part of preventing the spread of Covid-19, it is clear that we shouldn't forget about the basic infection control measures of hand hygiene, face coverings and social distancing which we relied upon this time last year. These measures will also protect everyone from other infections which we know are the causes of coughs, colds and flu.

As well as the vaccinations there is much more access to testing this year and the message is to take a test if you have any cold or flu like symptoms and stay at home until the results are known in order to protect others. If you test positive you should follow the guidance from Test and Trace and stay at home for 10 days even if you are feeling better.

As the Omicron variant continues to spread we have all been asked to reduce the numbers of people we come into contact with over the Christmas period. If you are planning on spending time with family over Christmas, the advice is to take a lateral flow test before hand and not go if it is positive. Whilst you are seeing family try to make sure that rooms are kept well ventilated to help prevent the spread of the virus. This can be done by opening windows and outside doors for about 5 minutes every hour or so –it will also help to get rid of some of the other bad air caused by all the sprouts you've eaten!

Here's hoping you have a safe and a merry Christmas with the opportunity to have some well-deserved rest.

BRINGING FORWARD THE UPLIFT IN THE NATIONAL LIVING WAGE

Quick summary

- The funding is to bring the 59p uplift in the National Living Wage (NLW) from 1st April 2022 forward to 1st December 2021.
- The focus is on frontline care staff – but funding will be available to maintain differentials with other staff. Admin costs will also be covered .
- The funding covers 1st December 2021 – 31st March 2022.
- Funding will be distributed based on where you are CQC-registered.

For more information, please see attached documents in the Provider Zone, including: the presentation and FAQ's.

