

# Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 5th February 2021

## Covid-19 Variant testing in the ME15 area

The targeted testing in the ME15 area has now ended. Those who live in the area and wish to be tested can attend a mobile testing unit without appointment. If anyone develops symptoms, they must self-isolate in line with current guidance.

For more information please see the KCC website here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/targeted-testing>

## Masterclass: Digital Care Homes – Digitally Connecting with Health, Social Care and Friends & Family



Wednesday 10 Feb 2.00pm – 3.00pm

This masterclass will showcase current digital technology for care homes, provide top hints and tips for digitally connecting during Covid-19 and beyond, and is presented by:

**Morfydd Williams** – Executive Director for Digital Transformation Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group

**Tamsin Rudolph** – Project Manager Digital Care Homes Design and Learning Centre, Kent County Council

To book, please email: [louise.faulkner@kica.care](mailto:louise.faulkner@kica.care)

## Pulse oximeters

Further to a few individuals escalating concerns about pulse oximeters, the national team have released the following information and FAQ:



National CE  
Network briefing - C



COVID Oximeters  
NHSEI Clinical Engin

## FREE annual National Care Association Membership for Kent Providers

Funded by Kent County Council's Infection Control Fund.

We are delighted to be able to offer **all care providers** in Kent the prestigious associate membership to National Care Association **FREE** for one year.

This offer has been funded by KCC to enable all Kent providers to remain up to date with the latest infection prevention and control guidance and information to support your care service with through this difficult time.

To take up this offer please complete the application form on the link below and return to

[info@nationalcareassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@nationalcareassociation.org.uk)



**Associate membership includes:**

- Latest industry changes, guidance and news in your inbox in real time
- Members only information communicated via email
- Monthly round-up newsletter
- Benefits from discounted deals from our sponsors and suppliers
- Access to secure DBS service

*Note: If you are a current National Care Association Member (on 13/10/2020) you are still eligible for this funding. You do not need to do anything! This 100% discount will be automatically applied to your next renewal.*

[Complete the application form now](#)

## Infection Prevention Control Toolkit

**FREE Training on Infection Prevention and Control for Care Services.**

**Wednesday 24 Feb**  
**9.30am – 11.30am**



**Free 2-hour training session for care services on infection prevention and control, covering:**

- Standard and transmission precautions.
- Chain of infection and practice to break the chain.
- PPE, risk assessment, usage and safe removal and disposal of PPE
- Policies, procedures and continuity plans.
- The appropriate knowledge and skills to take responsibility for infection prevention.
- How to challenge inappropriate practice.
- Reviewing and adapting IPC policy and procedure documents in line with local and national guidance.
- Coordination of staff induction and ongoing training updates for all staff in infection prevention and control.
- IPC risk assessments, training, audits, outcomes and subsequent actions
- Ensuring that all staff follow good infection control practice at all times.
- Gathering and analysing infection data to make evidence-based decisions.
- Managing and undertaking regular Infection Control audits.

and much more.....

[Book your place today](#)

## Updates from the Public Health Team

### Staff Testing for Covid

Please be mindful that as social care staff you are still required to have a confirmatory PCR test should you have a positive lateral flow device test.

Please continue to have a weekly Covid test even if you have received your first or both Covid 19 vaccinations. The vaccine is designed to prevent you developing a severe Covid infection and although early signs are good, we do not yet have evidence around reduction of transmission of the virus following vaccination.

### Covid-19 vaccinations

By now, the majority of staff and residents in older people's care homes should have received the vaccine. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations (JCVI) is currently considering the priority groups for the next rounds of vaccination and we are aware that other care settings are being considered, e.g. Learning Disability Care Providers.

As a public health team, we highly recommend the Covid-19 vaccination. Up to one third of people have side effects from the vaccine, but these are usually very mild e.g. a sore arm.

### Covid symptoms after vaccination

Although a mild fever can occur within a day or two of vaccination, if staff or residents have any other Covid-19 symptoms or their fever lasts longer, they should stay at 'home' and arrange to have a test. Although it is not common, it is possible to have caught Covid-19 and not have symptoms for the first few days and so not realise before vaccination.

There is now an enhanced surveillance programme of Covid-19 vaccinated individuals taking place. To support this programme, please could staff in care homes contact the resident'(s)' GP where:

- A vaccinated resident(s)/clients present with Covid-19 symptoms 10 days or more after their first (or second) vaccination and,
- vaccinated residents/clients test positive for Covid (especially if there are no symptoms).



enhanced-surveillance-of-covid-19-cases

For eligible care homes who have been unable to have residents vaccinated because of an outbreak of Covid-19, please contact

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/care-home-vaccination-follow-ups>

### Infection control measures

Whilst care homes have suggested that additional infection control monies available might be used for specialist fogging machines to decontaminate the home, please be reminded that you should not rely on fogging to clean, but should implement enhanced environmental cleaning (e.g. using a solution with at least 1,000ppm available chlorine) as per the PHE guidance.

### **Workforce development:**

To support development of the workforce, the government has launched a new national recruitment campaign. The ambition is to attract an additional 20,000 people into social care over the next three months. [Campaign materials](#) are available to support local recruitment efforts.

This is on top of measures to fast track DBS checks for new recruits and volunteers and making available up to £3million to support free rapid online training for new recruits, existing staff, and volunteers. There is also a new, dedicated app for the adult social care workforce in England to support staff on-the-go.

Under the new CARE brand, the Care Workforce app provides a single digital hub for social care workers to access relevant updates, guidance, support and discounts from their phone.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-care-homes/coronavirus-covid-19-care-home-support-package>

## **Delivering under pressure: supporting the wellbeing of frontline staff**

**Thursday 11 February 2021, 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

Frontline staff are key to the success of our communities and they have been at the heart of the country's response to the global pandemic. Our webinar will discuss how to support these frontline staff and invest in helping them to be mentally fit and resilient for the challenges they face.

We'll hear more about the impact of the pandemic on the wellbeing of the local government workforce and in particular the social care workforce. We'll also learn about the crucial role that line managers have in supporting good mental health and what tools and campaigns are available to help all managers and their staff to stay emotionally well during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

Speakers include:

**Luann Donald**, Senior Adviser - Lead on Workforce Wellbeing, Local Government Association

Useful links:

LGA workforce wellbeing advice and guidance - <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/workforce-and-hr-support/wellbeing>

Our Frontline – 24 hour support for key workers

In addition to existing EAP support available to the local government workforce, [Our Frontline](#) was created at the start of the pandemic to provide round the clock support to key workers. This includes one-to-one support, by call or text, from trained volunteers, plus resources, tips and ideas to look after your mental health. Our Frontline is a partnership between Shout, Samaritans, Mind, Hospice UK and The Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. -

<https://www.mentalhealthatwork.org.uk/ourfrontline/>

This is a virtual **Zoom** webinar, follow link to book:

<https://lgaevents.local.gov.uk/lga/frontend/reg/tSelectBookingMode.csp?pageID=385152&eventID=1128&tempPersonID=397283>

## **Important Customer Notice: BTP515 BTP9984 - Blayco Face Visor**

Dear All,

This is an advisory notice in advance of more formal communications in relation to a Face Visor that has been sent out to Trusts at the end of December and January 2021.

We have received reports that the product has different labelling which indicates that the product is Latex Free and Latex containing and the supplier has now confirmed that the product is labelled with both symbols and that any labelled containing latex (see below) has a small amount of latex encapsulated in its head band – We are working with the supplier to confirm the type of latex hence this pre-notification.

We would ask that Trusts check their stock of face visors and if they have received Blayco face visors that they check the labelling and quarantine awaiting further updates.

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19): providing home care**

Updated information for those providing personal care to people living in their own home during the coronavirus outbreak can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-providing-home-care>

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19): admission and care of people in care homes**

Updated information on how to protect care home residents and staff during the coronavirus outbreak can be found here:

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

## **5 FEBRUARY: Severe cold weather warning – ice and snow**

The Met Office is reporting a 90 per cent probability of severe cold weather in Southeast England from tomorrow (Saturday) morning through to Wednesday (10 February) with low temperatures, ice and snow.

This weather, and the ongoing risks from Covid-19, could increase the health risks to vulnerable people and disrupt the delivery of services. As you're already aware, prolonged periods of cold weather can be dangerous, especially for the very young, very old or those with chronic diseases.



To read more and for advice on keeping warm and well, see the [new severe cold weather warning for Kent residents](#) press release from KCC.