

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin's Care Cascade – Thursday 30 June 2022

Welcome to your latest care provider update.

These updates continue to centre around giving you and your team the information and resources you need, with a particular focus on infection control and Covid-19 - including vaccinations.

Please note – these editions are now monthly; the next edition will be late July.

If you would like to include anything in the next edition, please email Harriet Hopkins:

harriet.hopkins@nhs.net

Infection Prevention and Control Reminders

As Covid-19 cases rise in the community and we see an increase in outbreaks in care homes, we need to more vigilant about our infection prevention control measures. Please see below some reminders:

Hand Hygiene

- Ensure all staff groups are adhering to bare below the elbows
- Ensure hand hygiene facilities gel/hand wash basins are easily accessible

Personal Protective Equipment

- Ensure staff are aware of any changes to national guidance relating to PPE
- Ensure fluid resistant surgical masks are worn correctly and are fitted snugly around the nose
- Ensure staff are aware of the correct donning and doffing procedure

Ventilation in the home

- ventilation remains a priority to help disperse any virus
- When residents are out of their room open windows
- Some windows are able to be opened at the top this is preferred in areas where residents are located as it doesn't cause a draft
- Having a window open or vented for as little as 10 minutes every hour can help
- Consider having the window open when the resident is going to the bathroom/toilet
- For residents who are in bed consider having an extra blanket to use when the window is open if it becomes too cold
- If using fans ensure that they are not blowing directly at a resident and a risk assessment in place especially if they have a respiratory infection

Ensure cleaning within the homes follows national guidance:

- a general-purpose neutral detergent in a solution of warm water followed by a disinfectant solution of 1,000ppm av.cl e.g., bleach or Milton
- or a combined detergent/disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm available chlorine (av.cl.)
- If using a combined cleaning solution or disposable wipe ensure it conforms to EN14476

Ensure increased frequency of cleaning should be incorporated into the environmental decontamination schedules including:

- toilets/commodes particularly if residents /individuals have diarrhoea
- ‘frequently touched’ surfaces such as care equipment, door/toilet handles, locker tops, resident call bells, over bed tables, bed rails, phones, lift buttons/communal touch points and communication devices (for example, mobile phones, tablets, desktops, keyboards) particularly where these are used by many people, should be cleaned at least twice daily with solution of detergent and 1000ppm chlorine/wipe conforming to EN14476

Staff Handover

- Ensure staff handover is in an area where social distancing of 2m can be followed

Staff Breaks

- Review staff room/break area
- Risk assess how many staff can safely use the room – advise no more than one
- If two or more staff in the room social distancing of at least 2m
- Windows must be open
- Maximum of 15 minutes without wearing a mask
- If staff have their break outside e.g., smoking – social distancing must be maintained of at least 2m and mask fully removed – no sharing of smoking paraphernalia

Ensure staff are adhering to national guidance in all areas of the home and continuing the principles outside of work

- Follow the national guidance and consider wearing a face mask when in shops or crowded areas
- Ventilation is very important outside of work too open windows help disperse any virus – ensure windows are opened at least 10 minutes every hour

[COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-supplement-to-the-infection-prevention-and-control-resource-for-adult-social-care)

[Infection prevention and control: resource for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-prevention-and-control-resource-for-adult-social-care)
[C1636-national-ipc-manual-for-england-v2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-prevention-and-control-resource-for-adult-social-care/C1636-national-ipc-manual-for-england-v2.pdf)

Face masks

Face masks should be worn by all care workers and encouraged for visitors in care settings and when providing care in people’s own homes, irrespective of whether the person being cared for is known or suspected to have Covid-19 or not. This is sometimes referred to as ‘universal masking’ or ‘source control’ and is a means of preventing any spread of infection from the mask wearer.

[COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-supplement-to-the-infection-prevention-and-control-resource-for-adult-social-care)

Reporting Lateral Flow Test Results Issues

When reporting a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) result on some mobile devices the portal is asking that a picture of the test result be taken. For some reason this is then reading the result as a positive when the result is in fact negative. We are advising, if possible, not to use the option of downloading a photograph until this has been rectified. This has been reported.

The NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme

The NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme provides financial protection to the families of frontline social care and NHS staff who died from COVID-19 infections contracted in the course of their duties.

The scheme pays a tax-free £60,000 lump sum where individuals worked in high risk settings where direct care was provided to residents and patients.

The scheme closed to new deaths on 31 March 2022 but will remain open until 31 March 2023 to allow claimants time to make outstanding claims. Please make sure the families and dependents of your colleagues, who died in service before the end of March 2022, get the opportunity to make a claim.

[Click here for full details of the scheme and please share](#)

Healthwatch want to hear about your experiences of calling for an ambulance in an emergency

Concerns about the ambulance service performance in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin have been widely reported but the local health care champions, Healthwatch Shropshire and Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin want to hear the stories behind the statistics. They want to hear about where things have gone well and where things have not gone so well.

[Read more here.](#)

[Complete the survey here.](#)

Upcoming wellbeing events

Menopause Meet Ups

Staff menopause clinics are continuing to be held at Gains Park in Shrewsbury on a regular basis. Through this safe and confidential space, staff have an opportunity to discuss with our Occupational Health nurse your personal experience, including symptoms and potential treatment options and also gain further knowledge and understanding about the menopause.

[Click here to find out more](#)

Staff Psychological Wellbeing Hub

The Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Staff Psychological Wellbeing Hub is open to all members of the NHS and Social Care workforce employed by organisations in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

We recognise that the intensity of work during the pandemic has taken its toll on the health and wellbeing of the local workforce. Supporting the psychological wellbeing of our people is something that has never been more important.

Get in touch

If you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of the team, please get in touch with the Hub:

Telephone: 07890 066445

Email: stwstaffwellbeing@mpft.nhs.uk

<https://stwics.org.uk/staff-psychological-wellbeing-hub>

if you would like to refer yourself directly into the Hub, please click on this [link](#) and complete the form

[Click here for more information](#)

“ We're here to help our colleagues' mental health

Our specialist team can help you with your emotional wellbeing and mental health. It's confidential and safe.

07890 066445 mpft.stwstaffwellbeing@nhs.net
<https://stwics.org.uk/staff-psychological-wellbeing-hub>



How to access your Covid-19 vaccines in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

The Covid-19 vaccines are the best way to protect yourself, your loved ones and vulnerable patients/residents from Covid.

There are a number of ways in which care staff can get a Covid vaccine in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

You can either [book online by clicking here](#) or you can attend a walk-in clinic.

Details of the walk-in clinics available in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin can be found by double-clicking here: <https://www.stwics.org.uk/our-priorities/covid-19-vaccination-programme/walk-in-clinic-times>

Please keep checking back as new sites, dates and times are being added all the time.
