



**Integrated
Care System**
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

NHS

**Shropshire, Telford
and Wrekin**

January 2023

Care Cascade

Welcome to your care provider update



Welcome Back

We are pleased to provide our monthly update for colleagues working in the care sector.

These editions will centre around giving teams the information and resources they need relating to winter planning, with a particular focus on Covid-19 - including vaccinations, as well as flu vaccinations.

If you would like to include anything in the next edition, please email scott.demmerling@nhs.net



A message from Shropshire Health Protection Cell & Telford & Wrekin Health Protection Hub

Dear Care Provider,

We are writing to you all following the change in the national guidance on mask wearing. Whilst we recognise that the national guidance no longer mandates the universal wearing of masks, we are aware of a significant increase in respiratory viruses during this winter season, with many care homes dealing with outbreaks of COVID-19. We would therefore recommend and encourage that all care settings continue to recommend mask wearing to staff and visitors.

We know from our experience of the last few winters that the wearing of face masks, along with other elements of the hierarchies of control for the prevention of infection such as hand hygiene, ventilation and environmental cleaning, has had a significant impact on the reduction of respiratory viruses across all settings. Therefore we would encourage this best practice to continue, in order to protect both the residents and service users as well as staff working in these settings.

We would also strongly encourage all residents and staff who are eligible to have their COVID-19 booster and their flu vaccine; it is not too late to be vaccinated.

Please report any outbreaks to Public Health:

Shropshire - shropshirepublichealth@shropshire.gov.uk

Telford & Wrekin - HealthProtectionHub@telford.gov.uk

Regards,

Shropshire Health Protection Cell
Telford & Wrekin Health Protection Hub





Carers, including unpaid carers, encouraged to get COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine

Anyone aged 16 and over who receives carer's allowance, or who is the main carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk from flu or COVID-19, is eligible for both vaccines. This includes people who provide unpaid care, for example as a family member, close friend or neighbour.

Stef Kay, Chair of Shropshire Partners in Care (SPIC) and CEO of Bethpage, said: "It is hugely important that all those who are eligible, especially unpaid carers, take up the offer of both the COVID-19 booster and flu vaccines as soon as possible this season. The risk of COVID-19 and flu remains significant, and vaccines remain the best defence against them."

All carers can also self-declare (they do not need to wait to be contacted) and can book their COVID-19 booster vaccination via the National Booking Service, by calling 119, or by finding a local walk-in clinic online here, and should approach their GP or pharmacy for further information about how to access the flu vaccine. There is no requirement to provide proof that a person is a carer when attending vaccination appointments. Carers who are known to GPs and/or receive carers allowance should have received invitation for a COVID-19 and flu vaccination and are encouraged to take up the offer.

Carers who have newly taken on caring responsibilities may not yet be known to their GPs or Local Authority. It is hugely important that all carers are encouraged and supported to find out if they are eligible for a vaccination – especially those who are unpaid. If you are a carer or know of anyone who is, do consider approaching your GP to record your status on your primary care record.

Further information about the [COVID-19 autumn booster](#) is available online, and separate [flu vaccination guidance](#) for social care workers and carers has also been published.





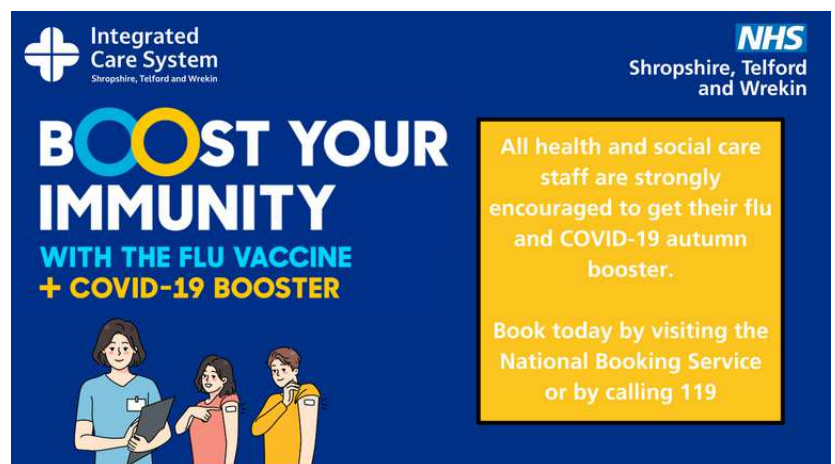
Show everyone you've boosted your immunity

Received your autumn booster?
You can click the link [here](#) and download the sticker to the right, add it to your Microsoft Teams background to help spread the message that you've boosted your immunity



Spread the word!

Click and download the images below to help spread the word in your workplace. Below you will find a poster, desktop screensaver and email banner.





Energy Networks Association

Please click the links below which provide power cut information and advice for anyone responsible for running care home services, people who work in care home setting and those who manage assisted-living residences.

- [Health and Social Care Professionals Briefing note](#)
- [Be Winter Ready Pamphlet](#)

Domiciliary Care Providers - The Priority Services Register to help households with older, disabled or other vulnerable family members in the event of power cuts.

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free and voluntary system that energy companies use to ensure support is given to their most vulnerable domestic customers.

We would encourage you to support someone you care for to register in case of power cuts - this is a free service provided by Energy Suppliers for older, disabled and other vulnerable people, or if someone depends on electricity to keep medical or mobility equipment running. How to register: Energy suppliers and Network operators will both keep a Priority Services Register. If you think someone should be added please encourage them or a relative to either contact the energy supplier or network operator, the supplier can pass your details to your network operator to add you to their register too. If someone has a different supplier for gas and electricity, they will need to contact them both.

Energy: Navigating the Market and Delivering Resilience Webinar: Friday 20 January 11:30 - 12:45

Practical guidance and best practice insight from experts on how to navigate the current energy market and deliver resilience for business. [Register your interest here.](#)

Business Support Showcase: Energy Efficiency & Resilience Wednesday 8 February 09:00 - 11:00, AFC Telford United

A showcase of support available to reduce your business energy costs and become more resilient in the current cost of living crisis. [Register your interest here.](#)



£400 one off energy payment for care homes announced

The government has announced a £400 one-off payment to offset rising energy costs in care homes across the UK.

Care homes will be able to apply online for the non-repayable help in January. Details of the application process are expected to be published [online](#).

Funding is through the Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS Alternative Funding) and will be made by local authorities in Great Britain.

Article from - <https://chmonline.co.uk/energy-grant/>

Digital Care Social Records

In September Telford & Wrekin Council, in partnership with Shropshire Council and Shropshire and Telford ICS applied for and was successful in gaining funding to support CQC registered adult social care providers to adopt technologies that can transform care over the next 3 years.

The Adult Social Care Digital Transformation Fund Project team's purpose is to work in partnership with stakeholders in the development and implementation of a three-year plan to help improve the opportunities, experiences, and outcomes for people accessing care. Digital Inclusion enables clients to take better control of their care plan, making informed choices about how to live their lives in a way that suit their needs.

For care services, digital inclusion means better delivery of care. Involving the client in their care plan ensures that decisions are being made from a person-centred approach. Digital inclusion also means that staff can spend less time on

We are pleased to advise that Fiona Padgett will be the project lead on this exciting new project. Fiona started her post on 3rd January 2022. For further information, please contact Fiona on STW-DSCR@telford.gov.uk



My Home Life England

Professional Support and Development Programme 2023 'The best course I have been on in 16 years' (Participant 2022)

- My Home Life England welcomes applications to our new programme across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. For 2023
- This programme is open to leaders who work in care homes and domiciliary care, including registered managers, deputies and clinical leaders.
- There are up to 20 places available - up to 10 places for people working in care homes and up to 10 for people working in domiciliary care. Places are funded by NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

Please see attached documents below for more information including FAQs and how to apply. Deadline is 23rd January.

[My Home Life England programme leaflet.](#)

[Application form](#)





PPE reminder

Face Masks

Care workers are still encouraged to wear face masks in care settings which remain a critical control measure to help minimise transmission.

There are a variety of different face masks which are useful for both protecting the wearer (PPE) and protecting others (source control). However, the type of mask recommended depends on the type of activity being undertaken and whether the person is known or suspected to have COVID-19 or not.

All face masks should:

- be well fitted to cover nose, mouth and chin
- be worn according to the manufacturer's recommendations (check which side should be close to the wearer)
- not be allowed to dangle around the neck at any time or be pulled down under the chin and then be re-applied
- not be touched once put on
- be worn according to the risk-assessed activity
- be removed and disposed of appropriately, with the wearer cleaning their hands before removal and after disposal

Face masks should be changed:

- if they become moist
- if they become damaged
- if they become uncomfortable to wear
- if they become contaminated or soiled
- at break times
- after 4 hours of continuous wear
- after providing personal care to someone with known or suspected COVID-19 - in a residential care setting staff should dispose of their face mask after leaving the individual's room, and put a new mask on.





PPE reminder continued

Good Ventilation

Good ventilation is an important control in managing the threat of COVID-19. Letting fresh air into indoor spaces helps to remove air that contains virus particles and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

When someone with a respiratory viral infection breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release small particles (droplets and aerosols) that contain the virus which causes the infection. These particles can be breathed in or can come into contact with the eyes, nose, or mouth. The particles can also land on surfaces and be passed from person to person via touch.

While larger droplets fall quickly to the ground, aerosols containing the virus can remain suspended in the air for some time, including after an infected person has left the area. In poorly ventilated rooms the amount of virus in the air can build up, increasing the risk of spread, especially if there are lots of infected people in the room. The risk of airborne transmission is increased when occupants in an enclosed space are participating in energetic activity, such as exercising, or when they are shouting, singing or talking loudly.

Bringing fresh air into a room and removing older stale air that contains virus particles reduces the chance of spreading respiratory infections. The more fresh air that is brought inside, the quicker any airborne virus will be removed from the room.

Whilst maintaining good ventilation is extremely important, it is also important to remember that ventilation does not prevent the spread of respiratory infections through close contact (it is for this reason that wearing a face mask is so important).





PPE Reminder continued

Cleaning and Disinfection

Regular cleaning plays a vital role in limiting the transmission of COVID-19.

Increase the frequency of cleaning, using for example sanitisers that meet the requirements of BS14476, paying attention to all surfaces but especially ones that are touched frequently, such as door handles, light switches, work surfaces etc.

Cleaning should be more frequent depending on the number of people using the space, whether they are entering and exiting the setting and access to handwashing and hand-sanitising facilities. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens.

Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings

When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used.

