

Dear Provider,

WEBPAGE REMINDER - Please check <http://valuecroydon.com/support-for-care-homes-during-covid-2-2> for all the latest guidance and information for care homes during Covid-19.

THURSDAY'S CARE HOME INFORMATION SESSION – Today's information session will focus on the new visiting policy guidance, PPE guidance and seasonal flu vaccinations. Do join at 1pm via this link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Covid-19 Data- w/c August 3rd

Rate of residents testing positive for COVID-19 in the last 7 days (increase since w/c 27th July)

Croydon: 2.6 (+1.0)

London: 5.1 (+1.6)

England: 7.2 (+2.0)

Total confirmed infections in Croydon in the last 7 days: 10 (+4)

Met Office Weather Warning- 30+ degrees expected across London (Attachment 1)

The Met Office has issued a Level 3 heat wave for London this weekend. Please find attached guidance from Public Health England on coping with the heat during the pandemic.

For acute and urgent needs care homes should continue to use the Immediate Telemedicine Service (where available) or NHS111 and Rapid Response where telemedicine is not available.

Update Online Covid 19 Data Reporting Requirement by Providers via the NHS Capacity Tracker.

All providers should have received a letter from Sarah McClinton, Chair, London ADASS and Helen Pettersen, Executive Director, Out of Hospital NHSEI, London Region on 3 August 2020, updating them on the new requirements for submitting their online Covid 19 data.

From the 3 August 2020, all providers should submit their Covid 19 data via the on line NHS Capacity Tracker only, there is no need to complete the ADASS Covid 19 on line return. The NHS Capacity Tracker should be completed in line with national guidance, which at present states daily. We fully understand that trends have stabilised and that all providers have heavy workloads and demands upon their time so the London region for NHS Capacity Tracker has requested a review of the current daily completion requirement. If there is any change to how often you need to complete the NHS Capacity Tracker, we will advise you accordingly.

We appreciate the incredible amount of work and professionalism that providers have put into the ADASS MIT system and please rest assured that everything that you have worked hard to supply to us is held and valued and will be able to be used in conjunction with the single one portal NHS Capacity Tracker system that you will now be using. ADASS MIT currently has and is developing a large suite of reports that will continue to be used by Croydon Council to look closely at what is happening locally at borough and provider level in real time so that we can plan services here in Croydon.

Should you wish to discuss any specific issues relating to the daily on line reporting process, or you would like to feed back on the system please contact Edward.Humphreys@croydon.gov.uk, Paulo.Borges@croydon.gov.uk, sarah.adam@croydon.gov.uk

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Residents in Croydon Homes (Attachment 2)

On 16 July 2020 Croydon Council sent providers an email about the emerging evidence on the disproportionate impact of the COVID 19 on BAME communities.

Public Health England published the report 'beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups' on 20 June 2020. You can find the report at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf

Measures called for in this report include improving access to and experience of, NHS services for BAME groups and the development of more culturally sensitive health campaigns and prevention services in order to help the health service understand and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities.

To assist this call to look after these residents who have been identified as vulnerable, we are looking to identify the age, gender and ethnicity of the residents who live in your home. In addition, we are asking you about any residents who have dementia. Providers were sent a short form to complete and return to us on 16 July 2020.

If you have not yet sent us this vital information, please can you complete the attached form and return it sarah.adam@croydon.gov.uk urgently

Update on policies for visiting arrangements in care homes

Last week the Government released guidance on visiting arrangements in care homes. The guidance includes advice for providers when establishing their visiting policy and when taking visiting decisions for particular residents or groups of residents. The guidance is available [here](#) and will be discussed in today's information session.

TESTING

Updated guidance- COVID-19 National Testing Programme: whole home testing for care home staff and residents (Attachment 3)

Last week the Department of Health and Social Care released updated guidance on the COVID-19 national testing programme. The guidance covers the following

- Outbreak management and rapid testing for care homes with outbreaks
- Retesting in care homes without outbreaks

Care homes to receive regular test kits by the end of July

From 6 July onwards, the Government will start to roll out weekly testing of staff and testing of residents every 28 days in all care homes without outbreaks. Bank, agency and visiting staff such as social workers and Allied Health Professionals working in care homes should be included in the weekly staff tests in care homes.

Retesting helps to prevent and control outbreaks in care homes and means steps can be taken to reduce the spread of the virus. This approach balances the need for regular testing

of staff, who will potentially be more exposed to the virus with the fact that regular testing can be difficult and distressing for some residents.

Care homes for the over 65s and those with dementia will be prioritised because these homes were the first to receive whole home testing in the initial round of testing. Retesting will then be expanded to the remaining adult care homes from early August. The digital portal is now open to allow care homes for the over 65s and those with dementia to register for retesting. **To register for testing please access the digital portal [here](#).**

INFECTION CONTROL FUND

If you have any questions about spending the Infection Control Fund please email enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk.

PPE

Updated Emergency PPE Process for Providers (Attachment 4)

For care homes with low PPE supplies, please see the attached guidance for acquiring emergency PPE.

The National PPE Portal has now been extended to all care home providers.

Wherever possible we would encourage you to continue to try and secure PPE supplies through your usual supply routes in the first instance. Further information on sourcing PPE and emergency supplies please click [here](#).

COVID-19: how to work safely in care homes

It is of continued importance to use PPE correctly in health and social care settings. The Government has published a range of guidance advising care homes on how to work safely during this period. The guidance is available [here](#) and includes:

- PPE recommendations for care home staff
- FAQs on the use of PPE in care homes
- Examples to help identify the correct use of PPE when undertaking activities that require physical contact or activities which are carried out in close proximity to residents
- Guide to putting on PPE for care homes
- Guide to taking off PPE for care homes

The Government has also released a [video](#) regarding how to put on and remove PPE.

Social care communications COVID-19 survey for providers

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) are seeking views from care providers on social care COVID-19 communications. The DHSC would like to receive feedback on the communications around COVID-19 best practice guidance for the social care sector to make sure care provider experience and views are heard, so the right planning and actions can be taken to support care providers. Feedback will be treated in the strictest of confidence and the survey will take no more than 5 minutes to complete. [The survey](#) is now open and will close by the end of day on Thursday 6 August 2020.

NHS-led mental wellbeing webinars for health and care workers, Thursdays at 16:00:

A new [Keeping Well for Health and Care Workers](#) webinar series is designed to help manage the emotional health and wellbeing of those working in health and care services, whether at the front line or in supporting services. Taking place on Thursdays at 4pm, each session has a focus on sustaining staff wellbeing and will explore topics such as preventing burnout, coping with stress and sleeping better. The full schedule and recorded webinars are available from the [Thrive LDN website](#).

Thanks again for you and your carers great support of our vulnerable residents.

Care Home Commissioning Team