

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 answer any of your questions and update on testing. Do join at 1pm via this link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

**INFECTION CONTROL PAYMENT** – The second tranche of £533.61 per bed should be in your accounts today. Let us know if not. Please see [Attachment 0](#) guidance regarding what to spend it on.

**COVID-19 CROYDON CARE HOME TESTING SHORT SURVEY** – We are aware of the issues a number of Croydon's Care Homes have reported with the national testing portal. Thank you to the 28 care homes who have completed the survey. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so via this [online form](#). Any queries should be emailed to [enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk)

**NHS CAPACITY TRACKER** - From the 3 August 2020, all providers should submit their Covid-19 data via the online NHS Capacity Tracker only, there is no need to complete the ADASS Covid-19 online return. The NHS Capacity Tracker should be completed daily.

In order to complete all the relevant questions on Capacity Tracker, providers need to follow this three step process:

- Step 1 – Click the red heart to complete the London specific questions. Click 'save' before leaving this page.
- Step 2 – Click the 'edit vacancies section' at the top. Click 'save' before leaving this page.
- Step 3 – Click the 'adult social care fund section' at the top. Click 'save' before leaving this page.

**PPE Completion-** A 'Blue' option has been added to indicate a long-term supply of PPE. Business continuity questions should continue to be answered on a DAILY basis.

**Infection Prevention and Control Completion-** The questions have moved to a separate 'ASC' page in the Provider Setup Details. This ASC page is to be updated WEEKLY. Please see [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#) for further guidance on how to complete the capacity tracker.

**TESTING** - The DHSC has not reached all care homes for older people and people with dementia as quickly as hoped. All care homes for older people and people with dementia will be retested by 7<sup>th</sup> September. All other adult care homes will be able to order test kits from 31<sup>st</sup> August.

To register for testing please access the digital portal [here](#).

**Testing of people with symptoms** - If you have a member of staff or resident who is symptomatic, they can access testing via the normal routes which are:

- i) <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> OR contact the local
- ii) <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-care-home>
- iii) Mobile Testing Unit at Fairfield Hall for staff (and residents who may be able to manage this) (twice a week).

The site will be open from 10.30 and 15.30 for booked appointments only via [www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested)

- iv) Local Testing Sites are being developed and may be available in the near future (these will be local and staff can walk/use their own transport)

If you are testing any residents or get any positive results (staff or residents), please contact the Health Protection Team (London Coronavirus Response Cell – LCRC) on 0344 326 2052 (do not press any options just hold until answered by an operator) and notify the Croydon Director of Public Health, [rachel.flowers@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.flowers@croydon.gov.uk)

**Whole care home testing and re-testing** - There are delays in the national regular care home testing programme for asymptomatic staff and residents. See attached letter (Attachment 3) from the Department of Health and Social Care, we are advocating on your behalf to get this resolved as soon as possible at London and national level, and please complete the online form to give us more information so we can represent you fully. We will continue to update you as we find out more.

**Antibody testing-** Antibody testing is now available for care homes at the Croydon Sexual Health Centre at Croydon University Hospital. 4 staff members from each care home can attend the clinic between 08:30 and 16:30 each day.

Nursing homes can carry out the antibody testing themselves if they meet the following criteria:

- Indemnity insurance includes taking blood samples from staff
- Staff performing phlebotomies are identified and must have verified protection against hepatitis B, have undergone sharps training in the last year, and will adhere to infection control precautions when undertaking the phlebotomies.
- The home has a separate room for the staff performing phlebotomies to take blood with floors which can easily be cleaned

Please remember that although a positive antibody test does give evidence that someone has had Covid-19 it does not change the need for that individual to continue undertaking regular swabs for testing of Covid-19 and use of PPE. We do not currently know if a positive test means that someone has immunity, so they may still be susceptible to Covid-19 and able to pass it on.

**PPE** - The National PPE Portal has now been extended to all care homes. All care homes with low PPE supplies should now use the National PPE Portal. Providers requesting PPE from the Council via [pperequests@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:pperequests@croydon.gov.uk) will now be redirected to the National PPE Portal. To access the portal, please click [here](#). 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](#).

#### **MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT**

- 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



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