

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** – Tomorrow afternoon's information session will answer any of your questions and provide a variety of updates. Do join at 1pm via this link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

**COVID-19 IN CROYDON CARE HOMES** – We have COVID-19 cases in 5 care homes in Croydon currently. Please ensure your staff are keeping up with infection prevention and control. Further guidance on this is below in 'Updated Guidance'.

**COVID-19 IN CROYDON** - 7-day rate (per 100,000) of confirmed cases:

Croydon: 7.27

London: 10.25

England: 10.34

**BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND** - For a list of pharmacies open in Croydon this bank holiday weekend, please see Attachment 1.

#### UPDATED GUIDANCE -

- **Visual Guide to PPE in Care Homes**- Public Health England have published a simplified guide to PPE for community and social care settings. The guidance is available [here](#).
- **Infection Prevention & Control**- the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) have published updated Infection Prevention & Control guidance. The [guidance](#) does not apply to adult social care settings in England, and can be used in addition to, but not in replacement, of the [existing guidance for homes in England](#).
- **Alzheimer's Society Care Home Visiting Guidance**- the Alzheimer's Society has published guidance on the value of visits to residents with dementia. The guidance is available [here](#).

#### TESTING –

- **Register for testing** - To register for testing please access the digital portal [here](#).
- **Testing after positive results** - 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)
- **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.

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT

- The Department of Health & Social Care has developed a CARE Workforce app to allow adult social care workers to stay up to date with the latest guidance and advice. The app also provides free access to wellbeing support. To download the app, search 'CARE Workforce' in the App Store or on Google Play, or the app content can be viewed [here](#).
- 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](#).

**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](#).

**INFECTION CONTROL**- Updated Infection Prevention & Control Guidance has been published by the Government. The guidance is available [here](#).

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

Care Home Commissioning Team



Adult's Commissioning  
Resources  
Level 7 (Zone D)  
Bernard Weatherill House  
8 Mint Walk  
Croydon, CR0 1EA