

COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

NEWS, GUIDANCE & TIPS FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDERS IN TORBAY

New process for Providers collecting PPE at Regent House from Monday 20th July

We have reviewed 'covid safe office working' guidance and we're making changes to the way the PPE hub works specifically around reducing contact time for when providers visit us. With reduced staff in the office now, we can only guarantee PPE to be picked and ready for 2pm.

- Providers to collect from Regent House, Regent Close, Torquay TQ2 7AN (next door to Asda Torquay) between 2-5pm (**only**). The car park and entrance to Regent House is at the rear and **providers are requested to park in the disabled spaces by the entrance door**.
- Providers should press the intercom for Procurement. They will be asked for their organisation name and to **return and remain in their car**.
- **An NHS staff member will exit the building, confirm the organisation and drop the bag outside of the car or in the boot (if already lifted)**

Update on Randox test kits

NHS Test and Trace has been notified that some test kits produced by Randox laboratories may not meet our required safety standards for coronavirus testing. Alongside the Lighthouse Laboratories, NHS Test and Trace has a separate contractual arrangement with Randox laboratories. As a precautionary measure and while we investigate further, NHS Test and Trace are requesting that all settings pause the use of Randox test kits with immediate effect and until further notice.

The risk to safety is low and test results from Randox kits are not affected. We will be supporting all testing settings to receive replacement kits as soon as possible.

This request only applies to unused Randox test kits, which are clearly marked with that name. Used Randox test kits can still be collected for processing as normal. All other kits from NHS Test and Trace can continue to be used for testing.

COVID Financial Support for Torbay Care Homes & Care Homes with Nursing

As you will be aware Torbay Council and Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust have been working together to ensure that there is financial support available to care homes in Torbay to address some of the additional cost pressures caused by the coronavirus pandemic. As per correspondence circulated to care homes on behalf of Steve Holman on Friday 17th July, please be aware of the following:

- As set out in previous correspondence in April 2020, payment for void beds commissioned by the Integrated Care Organisation ceased on the 30th of June 2020 for the majority of care home providers.
- The final deadline for providers to make claims for financial support with additional Covid-related costs from March to June 2020 is now the 31st of August 2020. Additional costs for extra personal protective equipment (PPE) consumption, minor infection control works and *pre-May 13th 2020 additional Covid-related staffing will be considered. Claims should be sent to TSDFT.communitycovid19@nhs.net and marked 'Covid Financial Support Claim for the attention of Steve Holman'. Claims can be processed much faster if supported by copies of invoices. *Staffing costs incurred by care home providers after 13th of May should be funded via Infection Control Grant and not claimed for via the retrospective route.
- The Council and the Trust have agreed to make a further additional one-off pro rata payment to care homes for PPE. The amount allocated to each home will be calculated at £40 per bed, per month (for three months). This payment is specifically to support the restocking of additional Covid-related PPE ahead of a potential second wave of the coronavirus pandemic and will be made in July 2020.

- At time of writing the Council has yet to receive from the government the second instalment of the Infection Control Fund grant but it remains the ICO's intention to ensure this is fully distributed to all eligible providers within 10 working days of its arrival. I need to remind you that regular completion of the national Bed Capacity Tracker is essential to ensure you are eligible for the second payment and that we have to assure DHSC that this is being done by all care home providers. The Council's Commissioning Team is planning to run a Bed Capacity Tracker training webinar for Torbay providers and will provide further details when the date is confirmed.
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Personal protective equipment (PPE) Guidance

The guidance attached with this newsletter has been updated to offer staff and visitors advice re the use of face coverings.

Summary:

- Staff should follow advice for general public regarding the use of face coverings when outside of work (e.g. wear a face covering – not a medical grade mask- when in enclosed spaces with people they do not usually come into contact with such as in shops or public transport (more guidance on the use of face coverings is available [here](#))
 - Face coverings SHOULD NOT be used as an alternative to PPE when carrying out health and social care activities- continue to use PPE in work in line with [PPE guidance](#)
 - Visitors to care homes should wear a face covering whenever they are in the care home. This is to prevent the spread of infection from the visitor to others.
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Regular repeat care home testing

Implementation of the new guidance around repeat asymptomatic testing of care home residents and staff is being agreed Devon wide – more information will be shared soon.

Repeat positive tests

If you have a repeat positive test within six weeks of an initial positive test this is counted as the same episode of infection unless there are new symptoms.

Access to information

As there is currently a high volume of communications being circulated, a reminder that the following links can be used to access up to date information, advice and guidance at any time:

- [Caring for Care Homes Webpage](#): These resources have been produced in collaboration with GPs, pharmacists, care homes managers and social care commissioners across Devon. **Previous editions of this newsletter can also be found on this page.**
- [DCC PEN Site](#): An information and engagement tool providing up to date Covid information including PPE, Testing, Online Learning, staff support and specialist services.
- [Torbay Council Website](#): The page is to inform residents, communities, employers and businesses in Torbay about the local response to coronavirus and to signpost useful advice, guidance and resources.

