

# COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

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

## Updated: COVID-19 getting tested

This guidance has been updated to state that the remaining CQC registered adult care homes (for those aged under 65) will be able to register for retesting from 31 August. There has also been new attachments added for care homes which include a graphic summarising testing for care homes and an information sheet for care providers around care home testing.

[Read the updated guidance here](#)

## Update on PPE Portal Guidance

- Added pharmacies and larger social care providers to the categories of provider that are invited to order from the portal.
- Update to the amount of visors that GPs, domiciliary care providers and residential care homes can order.
- The customer service team opening hours are now 7am to 7pm.

[More information can be found by clicking here](#)



## Update on Visiting Care Homes

The Guidance has been updated to say that no one should be allowed to enter a care home if they are currently experiencing or first experienced coronavirus symptoms in the last 10 days. Also updated to say visitors should be encouraged to walk or cycle to the care home if they can. [The Guidance can be found by clicking here.](#)

## Guidance for Supported Living

This guidance is designed to update and build on the previous advice to supported living providers, which was withdrawn on 13 May 2020. It sets out:

- Key messages to assist with planning and preparation in the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic so that local procedures can be put in place to minimise risk and provide the best possible support to people in supported living settings. These local procedures may need to be updated to reflect changes in government guidance and advice as the pandemic response changes
- Safe systems of working, including [social distancing](#), respiratory and hand hygiene and enhanced cleaning
- How [infection prevention and control \(IPC\) and personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) applies to supported living settings

[The Guidance can be found by clicking here.](#)

## CQC: Infection, Prevention and Control in Care Homes

We [previously](#) introduced how we are looking at infection prevention and control (IPC) in care homes and have now published our new [IPC inspection tool on our website.](#)

As we increase [targeted and focused inspections](#) of high risk services, this tool will be used to look at how well staff and people who live in the care home are protected by the prevention and control of infection (Key Line of Enquiry S5). Over time, we will look to improve and adapt the tool for other types of services.

The tool will help us to gather information about the strengths of a service and to understand if there are any gaps or concerns around IPC where we can signpost to resources which could help. As we all plan to manage any risk of a second wave of the coronavirus and the impact of winter pressures this helpful tool is something you can use to prepare.

---

## Training: Infection Control and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Free nationally sponsored programme to support Independent Providers with training relating to infection control and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The training is part of the GIRT programme (getting it right first time). The NHS locally is taking this programme forward within Devon.

These will be virtual sessions but they are designed to be interactive and 'live' with the instructors and so you will need to use a device with a working camera and microphone to access the session otherwise the instructors will not be able to sign-off your training.

Due to the level of interest and small cohort sizes, please only to book on to a session if you:

- 1. Are certain you can attend the time slot**
- 2. Can source and have with you the following PPE items:**
  - a. Disposable apron
  - b. Fluid resistant surgical mask
  - c. Eye protection (goggles or full-face visor)
  - d. Gloves
- 3. Are able to complete the pre-training tasks set out**
- 4. That the device (laptop, tablet etc.) you wish to use can access Microsoft Teams either via the website or app and has a working camera and microphone.**

If you cannot fulfil all four criteria, we ask that you wait to book on until you can fulfil all four and join a later session.

An email will be sent with joining instructions and if you are able to, please undertake the preparation for practical; links will be attached to the email. The competency document and certificate are emailed to individuals after the training.

We will be holding further training sessions and further details will be communicated as soon as possible. Any further queries please contact [d-ccg.chctraining@nhs.net](mailto:d-ccg.chctraining@nhs.net)

Please use this link to book on to the training: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/nhs-devon-ccg-30299751896>



### Train the Trainer

This half day workshop is available for those who would benefit from understanding the component parts of RESTORE 2 and wish to implement and roll it out in practice. This workshop gives senior health and social care professionals and nurses an introduction to understanding how to train and upskill staff in the use of the RESTORE 2. They will be able to apply the learning to every-day situations back in the practice, understand the tool in its entirety, be able to run training sessions with their own staff and assess them appropriately.

In-house RESTORE 2 trainers are asked to cascade training supplementary to their existing role, offering face to face training to staff members in their place of work. You will also be asked to audit the implementation process and provide dates of the training, along with the number of staff trained to Torbay and South Devon NHS Trust, who will then share this data with the Academic Health Science Network

Further information about how to apply to take on the role as a trainer to deliver and implement RESTORE 2 into your place of work has been attached with this newsletter.

## CQC: Making sure your building is safe from fire

Due to the ongoing coronavirus risks, measures have been put in place in many care homes to help restrict contact with surfaces. For example, fire doors being held in the open position to allow for passing through without touching door handles. However, some of these measures may mean fire safety measures are compromised.

Providers are encouraged to review fire risk assessments to ensure key areas are considered. This includes:

- A review of emergency evacuation procedures, including a staff to patient ratio assessment
- Regular fire drill and fire safety training to take account of any changes to procedures, layouts to the building or vulnerability of people using services
- Closing fire doors when not in use, or using an approved door holding device linked to the fire alarm system if it needs to be held in an open position
- Testing and maintenance of fire safety devices, such as fire alarms, emergency lighting, sprinklers etc.

Guidance on completing a fire safety risk assessment is [available on the GOV.UK website](#), as well as an additional [good practice document](#) and [advice from the National Fire Chiefs Council](#). You can also contact your local fire and rescue service business fire safety team for more advice.

---

## Heatwave

With temperature's rising, please find links below with up to date guidance, and additional information added to take account of issues such as PPE, shielding, vulnerable people, self-isolation and seeking medical assistance.

- [Heatwave Plan for England](#)
- [Heatwave Plan for England: easy read version](#)
- [Making the case: the impact of heat on health – now and in the future](#)
- [Advice for health and social care professionals: supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave](#)
- [Advice for care home managers and staff: supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave](#)



Resources have been attached with this newsletter for you to share with your staff and display within your service.



---

## Caring for Care Homes Newsletter

These newsletters are also sent to community pharmacies and GP practices. Articles published include good practice points, shared learning and new ideas to increase understanding and promote multi-disciplinary working across Devon.

[Please click here to access the August edition of the NHS Devon CCG Caring for Care Homes Newsletter.](#)