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Adults' Health and Care

Provider newsletter

3 May 2024

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COVID-19 testing from 1 April 2024

Read more from GOV.UK about testing from 1 April 2024 onwards, the purpose of ongoing testing, who will be eligible to access testing and when tests should be used.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Supporting safer visiting in care homes during infectious illness outbreaks

Read the principles to support decision making for those involved in safely planning and protecting visiting in care homes during outbreaks of infectious illness in adult social care.

[READ MORE](#)

Spring COVID-19 booster

People aged 75 years and older, residents in care homes for older people, and those aged 6 months and over with a weakened immune system will be offered a dose of the COVID-19 booster vaccine. Local NHS vaccination teams will visit care home residents to make sure they get the booster. Eligible people will be contacted by their GP surgery or NHS hospital trust, or can use the online [National Booking System](#).

Fire Service and health partners launch emollients fire safety campaign

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) have collaborated with the NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Community Pharmacy South Central to launch [a safety campaign around the fire risks of emollients](#).

Emollients are creams, sprays, and lotions that may contain paraffin or other products like butters and oils. Both paraffin and non-paraffin emollients can act as an accelerant when absorbed into clothing and exposed to naked flames or other heat sources. The awareness campaign has been developed to educate professionals and members of the public about the increased fire risks and the actions they can take to reduce these.

If clothing, bedding/blankets are affected by emollients:

- Never smoke in bed
- Be cautious when smoking
- Take care when cooking with gas or electric hobs
- Do not sit too close to any open fires, gas fires or halogen heaters

- Wash clothing and bedding daily at the highest temperature recommended. Although this will lower the risk, washing fabrics does not completely remove all fire risks

Campaign resources including posters and postcards have been sent to pharmacies and GP surgeries throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and these are also available for care providers to order via safeguarding@hantsfire.gov.uk.

International Recruitment Toolkit

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have recently published an [international recruitment toolkit](#).

This toolkit is a best practice guide to support providers to ethically recruit care workers and senior care workers from overseas. The toolkit can be used by providers who are new to international recruitment, to help support through the new processes, or by providers who are undertaking international recruitment and are looking to improve their approach.

The toolkit has been written in collaboration with Skills for Care, and is hosted on their international recruitment hub, alongside other key resources and information to support with ethical international recruitment.

Autism and suicide awareness training

Zero Suicide Alliance and Greater Manchester NHS have created autism and suicide awareness online training. The training has been co-produced with people from the autistic community and aims to:

- Share information about autism and suicide risk
- Share real experiences
- Coach you through spotting the signs and supporting an autistic person with four different scenarios
- Share resources for further support

The training has been developed for everyone, but particularly for those who are part of the autistic community or work with autistic people.

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