

Adults' Health and Care

Provider newsletter

6 December 2022

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There's still time to get your seasonal COVID-19 booster and flu jab

You can have a seasonal booster dose (autumn booster) of the COVID-19 vaccine if you are living or working in a care home for older people or a frontline health and social care worker, and it's been at least 3 months since you had your previous dose.

You can either [book a vaccination appointment online](#) or find a [walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#).

It's safe to have both the COVID-19 and flu jabs at the same time, if they are both offered at your appointment. However, to make sure you are protected as soon as possible, it is recommended that you get each vaccine as soon as you can, rather than wait to have them together. Read [further guidance about the flu vaccine](#) for social care workers. You can also [read more about the vaccine](#), including how to book your appointment, from the NHS.

A Level 3 Cold Weather alert has been issued for our region

A **LEVEL 3** Cold Weather alert has been issued for our region. This is forecast to occur between **18:00 Wednesday 7 December** and **09:00 Monday 12 December**. An alert is sent out when mean temperature of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow **are predicted** within 48 hours

Guidance on actions you may wish to consider can be accessed via the following links:

[Action card for provider organisations](#)

[Action card for frontline health and social care staff in community and care facilities](#)

Additional information and resources for:

[Cold weather: how to stay well in winter](#)

[Keep Warm, Keep Well leaflet](#)

Additional considerations:

- Encourage individuals to wear warm clothing appropriate for the temperature and to use layers

- Check all windows are closed to minimise the heat loss
- Encourage residents to have hot drinks and hot meals
- Use additional blankets / duvet / hot water bottles for residents
- Encourage residents to do light exercise as part of their daily activity
- Reduce outings as much as possible during low temperatures
- Monitor comms from the County Council, Met Office, and other health providers such as the NHS

If you are not already signed up to the Cold Weather Alert System, you can [sign up to receive cold weather and heat health alerts](#)

Winter planning – contingency and business continuity plans

There have been reports within the media speculating a potential disruption to energy supplies over the 2022/23 winter period. Energy supplies may also be interrupted as a result of bad weather.

Energy companies are confident that they will be able to meet demand, however, there is a small risk that rolling blackouts may be implemented. If this does occur, it will be in small pockets across the county, for a few hours during the evenings. It is important to review business continuity plans in preparation for the winter to ensure you can continue to deliver the required care and support should there be interruptions to energy supplies.

Some key considerations for your contingency and business continuity plans may include:

- Ensuring back up generation and adequate fuel supplies to run the generator and that your generator is working
- Additional blankets and hot water bottles to keep individuals warm if there is no central heating
- Supply of torches or battery powered lighting
- Ensuring you have an up-to-date copy of people's risk assessments and care plans on the premises in case you are unable to access electronic systems
- Ensure that you have considered how you will support people's nutrition and hydration
- Ensure you have a list of crucial telephone numbers such as GPs, the local authority, Southern and Scottish Electricity Network (SSEN) and a mobile telephone that is charged on site

SSEN provide most of the electricity within the Hampshire area. They encourage care providers to self-register on their [Priority Service Register](#). The Priority Service Register ensures that SSEN are aware of where the vulnerabilities are located within the county and allows them to provide additional support when the power goes out. Registering on the Priority Service Register does not guarantee that a generator will be provided to all vulnerable customers and care homes when a power outage occurs. The expectation is that all care homes have adequate arrangements in place to meet the care and support needs of the individuals.

We have put together some [information](#) to help you prepare for winter.

National Capacity Tracker Changes

Read the [update from National Capacity Tracker](#) and information about [this month's changes](#). You can also find [frequently asked questions](#) which address some of the changes and questions providers have been asking about Capacity Tracker.

A vaccination survey has been added to Capacity Tracker to help inform the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) about uptake of the COVID-19 booster and flu jab. It is a good idea to look through the survey questions first to check you have all the information to hand before answering. If you leave the survey page without submitting your response the answers will re-set.

Safeguarding Week

It was recently Safeguarding Week, which is an opportunity to highlight different aspects of abuse and themes relating to adults at risk. Local themes this year include self-neglect and hoarding, homelessness, safeguarding concerns, cost of living and fuel poverty, domestic abuse and safeguarding in everyday life. Find out more on the [Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board website](#), where you can find resources relating to each theme.

Safeguarding conference – Making safeguarding personal

The Safeguarding Provider Conference took place at Hope Church on 22 November. It was great to see such a range of attendees. Jane Lawson (Independent Scrutineer HSAB) introduced the event which included:

- Learning from SARs
- Making a safeguarding referral to the Local Authority
- Proposed Liberty Protection Safeguards
- Making Safeguarding Personal in the Residential Setting

The Adults' Health and Care Learning & Development team took the opportunity to ask the delegates what they would like to see at future conferences and learning events so we will keep you posted on plans moving forward.

Fire Service now accepting fuel hardship referrals for home fire safety visits

With the rising cost of living making this a challenging time for many, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) want to make sure members of the community know how to keep themselves, their loved ones and their homes safe from fire.

Their [Cost of living campaign](#) is raising awareness of the 5C's: carbon monoxide, cooking, clothing, candles, and chimneys to highlight home fire safety risks that people may be taking as they respond to increased living costs.

To help support the most vulnerable at this challenging time, the Fire Service is now accepting Safe and Well (home fire safety) visit referrals from partners for those in fuel hardship.

[Visit their website to find out more and make a referral](#) - you may need to seek the client's permission to share their details before making a referral.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week in November raises awareness of the part we can all play to keep antibiotics working. As more antibiotics continue to be prescribed, there is a risk that bacteria will develop resistance to them. This will make antibiotics less effective, and eventually not effective at all.

Remind yourself about how to reduce the risk of infection by [watching a video](#) from Hampshire County Council

Learn more about Antimicrobial Resistance by watching a [short animation](#) and read more from [the NHS](#).

Take a look at the [Urinary Tract Infection \(UTI\) pack](#) for primary care and care home staff from Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS – the pack gives information on best practice in managing UTI consultation requests and antibiotics.



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