

*Adults' Health and Care
3rd Floor, Elizabeth II Court West
Sussex Street
Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UQ*

Enquiries to

July 2021

Dear Provider,

Re: COVID-19 payments

As you may be aware, over the last few months there have been a number of different grants made available, against which you have been reporting your spend to enable us to report back to the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC). These grants include:

- Infection Control Grant (ICF) 1 – April 20 – September 20
- Infection Control Grant (ICF) 2 – October 20 – March 21
- Rapid Testing Fund (RTF) – January 21 – March 21
- Infection Control and Testing Fund (ICTF) 1 – April 21 – June 21

Due to the success of the last Infection Control and Testing Fund (ICTF) in supporting care providers to reduce transmission and re-enabling close contact visiting, the Government has announced an extension to the grant and is launching a new round of funding; which will now run from July 21 to September 21, with an extra £251 million of funding to be made available.

To apply for the funding please complete the form below at your earliest convenience but by no later than the deadline of **Friday 30th July**. Providers who complete the form before the start of September, may still be eligible, but will be paid their allocation in a future payment run.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=tdiBPwfuF0yGnB20OQGNm-WF-40j6A5Omu4ONWUTuQhUQzJBNFZBNkjqNkRUQTVMMzlwODJBQ0taMy4u>

What is the purpose of the IPC and Testing fund?

The purpose of the extended fund is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to:

- 1) reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings through effective infection prevention and control practices and increase uptake of staff vaccination

Director of Adults' Health and Care
Graham Allen

- 2) conduct testing of staff and visitors in care homes, high-risk supported living and extra care settings, to enable close contact visiting where possible

Allocation of payments from this fund

Hampshire County Council **will make three simultaneous payments to providers who apply to this fund:**

1. Mandatory allocation of funds to support **Infection Prevention Control** measures
2. Mandatory (for care homes) and discretionary (for Community Care Providers) allocation to support with the costs of **testing** staff, visitors and clients (as appropriate), both Lateral Flow and PCR tests.
3. Discretionary allocation to support with the costs of increasing the levels of double **vaccinations** among staff, in advance of any changes in legislation.

IPC and Testing payments will be made on a per bed (care home) or per client (community care services) basis, and the vaccination payment will take into account the number of staff, and the overall level of vaccination as reported via the National Capacity Tracker.

What Can I Spend the Money On?

Please find below outline points of what you can spend the money on for either infection prevention and control, or testing:

Infection Prevention and Control

- Ensuring staff who are isolating in line with Government guidance receive their normal wages
- Limiting all staff movement between settings unless absolutely necessary, to help reduce the spread of infection
- Limiting or cohorting staff to individual groups of residents or floors/wings, including segregation of COVID-19 positive residents
- Supporting active recruitment of additional staff (and volunteers)

Testing

- Paying for staff costs associated with training and carrying out lateral flow (LF) testing, as well as the costs of PCR testing, and disposal of tests and equipment
- Waiting for results, if staff are taking tests prior to their shift.
- Supporting safe visiting in care homes
- Costs associated with recruiting staff to facilitate increased testing
- Costs associated with the maintenance of a separate testing area where staff and visitors can be tested and wait for their result.

Vaccination

Providers may use this portion of the funding at their discretion with the express aim of increasing the overall percentage of front line staff who to receive both doses of a Covid-19 vaccination. This can include ensuring staff who need to attend work or another

location are paid their usual wages, any costs associated with enabling staff to successfully book and have both first and second jabs, costs associated with reaching a vaccination facility and any reasonable administrative costs.

Please note these points are not exhaustive and full details can be found on: [Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Reminder of IPC and Testing fund conditions

Providers who receive this one-off payment will:

- Have completed Hampshire County Council's online form, confirming their understanding of the grant conditions
- have completed the Capacity Tracker or CQC homecare survey (as per government guidance) at least once per week since they first received support from the new Infection Control Fund
- have complied with any requests for more information
- Be completing the capacity tracker at least weekly
- Agree to continue to complete the capacity tracker at least weekly
- Report back to the Council on how much they have spent on a monthly basis.

If Hampshire County Council finds that a provider has not spent the entirety of the funding by the end of September 2021, we will take steps to recover any unspent monies in line with the Government grant conditions.

[Adult social care extension to Infection Control and Testing Fund 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

If the information that we receive from providers about spending gives cause for concern that spending was not consistent with the conditions, we will withhold payment of this fund until we are satisfied providers have understood the conditions on this funding, and that funding can be reclaimed from them if it has been spent inappropriately.

If you have queries regarding this letter, or about how these changes may affect clients please contact: as.contracts@hants.gov.uk

Yours faithfully



Graham Allen, Director of Adults' Health and Care