



Winter plan



Throughout winter, it will be essential that local authorities and NHS organisations continue to collaborate, working alongside one another as well as with adult social care providers (including in the voluntary and community sector), people with care and support needs, their families and carers, and national government.

The winter plans will set out a number of different elements such as:

- The local authority's approach to prioritisation of services and decisions
- Detail how funding from the Infection Control Fund will be distributed
- Demonstrate how systems will continue to take appropriate action to trace and treat COVID-19 cases
- Detail how local authorities will continue to ensure care providers carry out testing
- Encourage the flu vaccine take up
- Detail support for reopening of day care services
- Describe how high quality clinical, technical and admission prevention support will be provided.

For more info on local winter plans you can go to: www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/adult-social-care-coronavirus-winter-plan-2020-21-briefing-and

Care Home Visitor Guidance in all of Lancashire

Currently because of high levels of infection rates across Lancashire, visitors to care homes are being restricted.

The Local Authorities and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups across Lancashire are calling for the Government to make limited visiting possible within care settings by following a risk based approach and giving providers permission to make best interest decisions for their residents and families. We will continue to work with our providers on guidance for safe visiting which also take into consideration the mental health and well-being of all of our residents and their families.

We know and understand that visiting and being able to see a loved one or a friend is important to wellbeing. This is why we are calling for a family member or an 'identified significant person' to be allowed to continue visits. We want to support our care homes and providers to implement safe measure to allow visiting to continue.

We believe this to be a balanced approach to safeguard our most vulnerable in society who have already lost so much valuable time with loved ones.

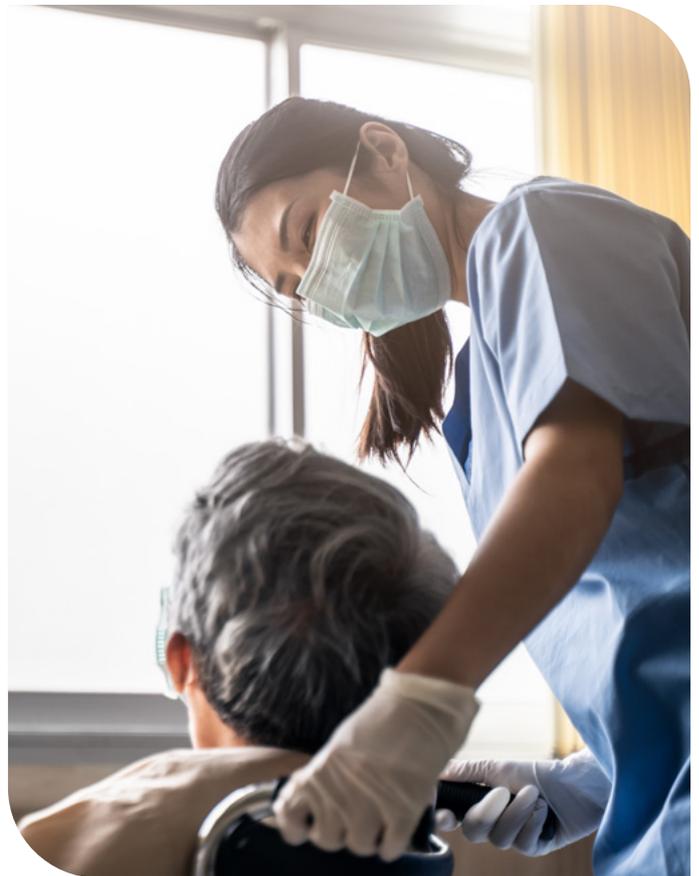
Further information and current government guidance can be found following the link below www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes

PPE

The government has stated that it will continue to provide free personal protective equipment (PPE) in line with current guidance to care homes and domiciliary care providers, via the PPE portal, until the end of March 2021. All registered providers should make sure that they are signed up to the portal and should have received an email invite to register.

If you have not received a letter or have not been able to register please contact the local authority your services are delivered in for further guidance and assistance. You can also contact the government's PPE portal and helpline on 0800 876 6802 or visit <https://nhs-ppe.co.uk/customer/authentication>

In other situations Local authorities should be able to provide free PPE to care providers ineligible for the PPE portal, when required (including for personal assistants), either through their Local Resilience Forum (if it is continuing to distribute PPE) or directly until March 2021



Flu vaccination

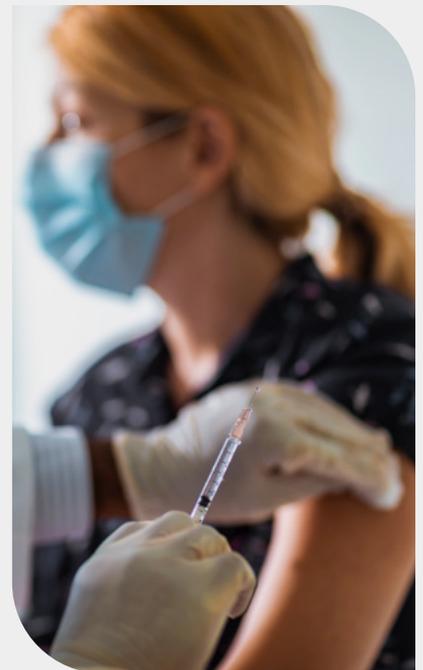
It is really important that everybody does all they can to stay safe and well this winter and protect themselves from the flu and other winter viruses.

It is crucial to get the flu vaccine as soon as it is available if you are in an 'at risk' category for flu, are a carer, or live in the same house as someone on the NHS shielded list. If you fall into one of these categories then you are entitled to a free flu vaccination. Please visit your GP, local community

pharmacist or supermarket for your flu vaccination. For supermarkets you can either walk in or book on line.

Other things you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones are:

- Wash your hands regularly and use hand sanitiser when out and about
- Catch it, bin it, kill it: Catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and throw it away immediately
- Wear masks when needed and keep 2 meters apart



Useful contacts across Lancashire:

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need further support.

For all queries in the Lancashire County Council area:
contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk

Blackburn with Darwen area: quality.assurance@blackburn.gov.uk

Blackpool area: contracts.team@blackpool.gov.uk