**COVID-19 NCF Members' Briefing**

**20th April 2020**

**COVID-19 Links, Resources and Comms**

The Care Provider Alliance (CPA) has a page with [latest news and guidance for COVID-19](https://www.careprovideralliance.org.uk/coronavirus.html). Do also look at their [top tips for communication](https://www.careprovideralliance.org.uk/uploads/1/0/8/0/108055907/cpa_individual_care_providers_comms_top_tipsv2.pdf) as well.

You can also keep up to date on NCF's [page for guidance and regulation, wellbeing advice and practical resources](https://www.nationalcareforum.org.uk/ncf-voice/covid-19-coronavirus/).

CQC has a [dedicated section](https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/providers/coronavirus-covid-19-information#programmes-schemes) to COVID-19 related changes on their website.

SCIE has created a [hub for COVID-19](https://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19) advice for social care.

Please also regularly check the [government's COVID-19 page](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and [Social Care Guidance Hub](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-social-care-guidance).

**Message from the Minister for Care**

A message from Helen Whately, Minister for Care, can be [read here](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCQC/bulletins/2876c7f).

**5 CQC Testing Update**

The CQC has issued an [update](https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/cqc-books-testing-appointments-nearly-12500-care-staff-rolls-out-support-measures) on the number of test appointments booked for social care staff, although they haven't stated how many have actually been tested and received results. Since 10 April, 24,590 locations have been contacted and 12,422 appointments booked.

**4 New Requirements to test patients being discharged from hospital to a care home**

Following the announcement last week that the NHS should test people before they are discharged from hospital to a care home, a [letter has been issued confirming that hospitals are now required to do this](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/new-requirement-to-test-patients-being-discharged-from-hospital-to-a-care-home/).

**1 Extra Funding for Local Authorities**

Over the weekend the government [announced an additional £1.6bn to local authorities](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-extra-16-billion-for-councils), making the total £3.2bn. This is expected to be used on a number of front-line services, including social care.

**2 Job Retention Scheme is Live**

The Government's Furlough Scheme is [now live](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-up-and-running).

* [Guidance on working out 80% of an employee's salary](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/work-out-80-of-your-employees-wages-to-claim-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme)
* [Step-by-step guide to scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-step-by-step-guide-for-employers)
* [Guidance for employers](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme)

**6 COVID-19 NHS Webinars on Home Care**

We're expecting some guidance on home care very shortly - hopefully tomorrow.

In the meantime, make sure you sign up for one of the [Home Care Webinars](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-19-home-care-webinar-tickets-102979002970) run by the NHS. The NHS is hosting interactive webinars for anyone working in the Home Care sector to support providers in protecting staff and the people they care for while ensuring each person is getting the right care in the most appropriate setting for their needs. The webinar will consist of an overview of the guidance through short presentations, followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

**3 Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG)**

DMAG has been established by a number of representative trade bodies and UK associations, to co-ordinate death care management with the UK Government and the devolved administrations. Please see the attached letter. It asks care providers to disclose infectious diseases risks to funeral home staff when collecting deceased persons from care home settings. We have already pointed out to them the difficulty of disclosure when testing is not routine in care homes at present. The letter includes a contact if you need more information.