

COVID-19

Information for Adult Social Care

This information should NOT be used as a substitute for local directives. All adult social care practitioners (regardless of setting) should contact their line manager for their organisations latest guidance.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways. It is caused by a type of Coronavirus.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

This NHS guidance provides information about the virus affects people, how it is spread, how to avoid catching or spreading germs and what to do if you think you or somebody else is infected or at risk.

Guidance on handwashing: <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Sign Up for Government Alerts

Anyone can sign up to receive email alerts from the government about their response to COVID-19.

<https://www.gov.uk/email-signup?link=/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Working from Home Well

With the government asking everyone to work from home wherever possible we have found some guidance about how to do so effectively whilst taking care of mental wellbeing.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51868894>

<https://www.britsafe.org/media/7432/supporting-remote-working-checklist.png>

<https://www.britsafe.org/media/7433/homeworking-mental-health-tips.png>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak/while-working>

Contents

To make this resource more accessible we have divided it into sections as set out below.

Use the linked headings to go straight to the information you are looking for:

1. [General Guidance \(applicable to all\)](#)
2. [Legislation](#)
3. [Ethical Frameworks \(including Mental Capacity\)](#)
4. [Provider Services](#)
5. [Hospital Discharge](#)
6. [Educational Settings](#)
7. [Specialist Practice Areas](#)
8. [Court of Protection](#)
9. [Commissioning](#)
10. [Other News/Information](#)

1. General Guidance (applicable to all)

Social Distancing and Shielding

Guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people (various languages)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Guidance for Employees, Employers and Businesses

Guidance for employers and businesses on coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

COVID-19: guidance for employees

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-employees>

2. Legislation

Emergency Coronavirus Bill

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/cbill_2019-20210122_en_1.htm

This Bill is set to become law imminently law.

The key points as regards adult social care:

All of the following duties of The Care Act 2014 will likely be downgraded to 'powers' –

- s.9 duty to assess the individual's needs;
- s.10 duty to assess carer's needs;
- s.13 duty to determine eligibility;
- s.17 duty to assess financial resources;
- ss.24-27 care planning duties;
- ss.37-38 duties relating to people moving areas; and
- ss.58-64 duties concerning child carers.

Note: The duty to meet eligible needs for care and support will also be downgraded to a power, unless failing to meet the needs would be a breach of human rights.

Note: These changes will only last the duration of the emergency.

Note: Local authorities will still be expected to do as much as they can to comply with their powers to meet needs during this period and these amendments do not remove the duty of care they have towards an individual's risk of serious neglect or harm.

For further information see:

<https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2020/03/22/coronavirus-bill-allow-ministers-suspend-key-care-act-duties-event-pandemic-emergency/>

3. Ethical Frameworks (including MCA)

Ethical Framework for Adult Social Care

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-ethical-framework-for-adult-social-care>

Published on 19th March 2020 this is a framework to support the planning and organisation of adult social care during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

In regards to mental capacity, there are no amendments to The Mental Capacity Act 2005. However, there is an impact and Alex Ruck Keene has summarised this thus far (as of 19.3.20):

<https://www.mentalcapacitylawandpolicy.org.uk/covid-19-and-mca-first-guidance-out/>

4. Provider Services

Regulated Provision

Cleaning of non-healthcare settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

COVID-19: guidance on residential provision

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-residential-care-provision>

COVID-19: guidance for supported living provision

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living-provision>

COVID-19: guidance on homecare provision

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-home-care-provision>

CQC: routine inspections suspended

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/routine-inspections-suspended-response-coronavirus-outbreak>

Transport

COVID-19: guidance for staff in the transport sector

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector>

5. Hospital Discharge

Information about hospital discharge requirements can be found on the NHS England website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/covid-19-hospital-discharge-service-requirements/>

There is also a range of government guidance for health professionals and those working in clinical setting:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance#guidance-for-health-professionals>

6. Educational Settings

General Guidance

COVID-19: guidance for education settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintaining educational provision

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Social Distancing and Isolation

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on isolation for residential educational settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

DfE Coronavirus Helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday

7. Specialist Practice Areas

Guidance for hostel or day centres providers of services for people experiencing rough sleeping

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-services-for-people-experiencing-rough-sleeping/covid-19-guidance-for-hostel-or-day-centre-providers-of-services-for-people-experiencing-rough-sleeping>

COVID-19: hotel accommodation to support key workers and vulnerable people

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-hotel-accommodation-to-support-key-workers-and-vulnerable-people>

Prisons and other prescribed places of detention guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-prisons-and-other-prescribed-places-of-detention-guidance/covid-19-prisons-and-other-prescribed-places-of-detention-guidance>

8. Court of Protection

Using technology

The biggest impact for adult social care will be the courts use of telephone and video technology during the outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hmcts-telephone-and-video-hearings-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Office of the Public Guardian response

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-office-of-the-public-guardian-response>

9. Commissioning

Procurement Policy Note 01/20: Responding to COVID-19

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0120-responding-to-covid-19>

It is clear that in these exceptional circumstances, authorities may need to procure goods, services and works with extreme urgency. Authorities are permitted to do this using regulation 32(2) (c) under the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

This Procurement Policy Note gives information and guidance on public procurement regulations.

ADASS/LGA and CPA shared guidance

<https://www.local.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-councils/social-care-provider-resilience-during-covid-19-guidance-commissioners>

This guidance note is for local authority commissioners. It is designed to summarise pressures on social care providers arising from COVID-19, and to put forward ways in which commissioners can alleviate these pressures.

COVID-19: Information for council adult social care commissioners

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/our-improvement-offer/care-and-health-improvement/commissioning-and-market-shaping/covid-19>

Note: This is only accessible to LGA members-login required.

10. Other News/Information

Social Work England

<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/news/temporary-registration-of-social-workers/>

<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Government WhatsApp Information Service (25.3.20)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>

BASW

<https://www.basw.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-basw-updates>

tri.x Procedures

Our procedure customers can be reassured that at tri.x it is business as usual, with no impact expected on update schedules.

Practitioners working from home or that do not have access to your organisations systems can still access the procedures, as long as they have internet access.

Remember that the News Area can be a helpful way to share information and updates quickly with procedure users.

Reconstruct Training

The delivery of all face to face training has been suspended.

However, Reconstruct training are able to provide all of their extensive training portfolio virtually and continue to welcome new enquiries.

Carter Brown Expert Witnesses

Given that the Courts and Local Authorities remain open, it is business as usual for Carter Brown. We are still accepting new referrals and exploring with customers the best way to undertake assessments, utilising communication tools such as Skype wherever possible.

To find out more see <https://www.carterbrownexperts.co.uk/covid-19-update/>

