

POLICY BRIEF

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

02 December 2020



The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators since the last HASC Scrutiny committee on 14 October 2020.

HEADLINES

- [New National Restrictions from 5 November](#) (31 Oct)
- [Government extends Furlough to March and increases self-employed support](#) (05 Nov)
- [New winter package to provide further support for children and families](#) (08 Nov)
- [Jenrick launches 'Protect Programme': the next step in winter rough sleeping plan](#) (05 Nov)

GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Department of Health and Social Care (21/10/2020) [Winter discharges: designated settings](#). A letter has been sent to directors of adult care, setting out the requirements for designated care settings for people discharged from hospital who have a COVID-19 positive status. It also gives an overview of actions that Local Authorities, CCGs and local NHS providers should take.

Department of Health and Social Care (04/11/2020) [New guidance to support safe care home visits during lockdown](#). All care home residents in England should be allowed to receive visits from their family and friends in a COVID-secure way – with social distancing and PPE – following new guidance to be used while national restrictions are in place from 05 November.

- Visits should be tailored to residents and facilities and should prioritise residents and staff's safety to limit the transmission of COVID-19.
- Care homes, especially those who have not allowed visits since March, will be encouraged and supported to provide safe visiting opportunities as new national restrictions come into effect.
- Measures put in place should provide COVID-secure opportunities for families to meet using visiting arrangements such as floor to ceiling screens, visiting pods, and window visits.


Department of Health and Social Care (14/11/2020) [Pilot for family members to get regular testing for safer care home visits](#). Family members or friends of those living in care homes will be given regular testing to reunite them with their loved ones in care homes in a new pilot launched on 16 November 2020. The pilot is taking place in around 20 care homes across Hampshire, Cornwall and Devon and will be rolled out more widely in December in time for Christmas.

Department of Health and Social Care (09/11/2020) [More rapid COVID-19 tests to be rolled out across England](#). Over half a million rapid-turnaround lateral flow tests will be sent out by NHS Test and Trace to local public health leaders this week, signalling the next phase of the government's plan to expand asymptomatic testing for COVID-19. Directors of public health will determine how to prioritise the allocation of these new tests, based on the specific needs of their communities, and will determine how people in the local area are tested. They will be supported by NHS Test and Trace to expand testing programmes in their area through access to training and clinical and operational guidance.

Department of Health and Social Care (11/11/2020) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): looking after people who lack mental capacity](#). Guidance for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity has been recently updated.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (13/11/2020) [Enabling safe and effective volunteering during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). New guidance which aims to help organisations and groups understand how to safely and effectively involve volunteers during the pandemic.

RECENT CONSULTATIONS

| Date of publication | Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee |  GOV |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 31 October | Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Toilet provision for men and women: call for evidence | Closes 29 Jan |
| 10 November | Department of Health and Social Care: Total restriction of online advertising for products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) | Closes 22 Dec |
| 13 November | Department of Health and Social Care: Stopping movement of staff between care settings | Closed 23 Nov |