

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

By email

26/03/2020

**Covid-19 Update from City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) and Wolverhampton CCGs (WCCGs)**

Dear Provider

We are aware that the shortage of PPE in provider settings is continuing, CWC and the WCCG are doing as much as we can to source PPE for urgent cases in the interim period whilst Public Health England distribute the stock directly to providers, please continue to use [People.Commissioning@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:People.Commissioning@wolverhampton.gov.uk) for urgent enquiries. Please can we urge you to read the guidance that has been uploaded to the CWC website, this includes when to use PPE and guidance on cohorting in the event of an outbreak:

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-guidance-social-care-providers>

If you have 2 or more people with suspected or confirmed Covid-19 in your setting, our local Public Health team have advised you should call the number below for advice over the phone on infection control and cohorting:

**PUBLIC HEALTH NUMBER: 0344 225 3560 – option 2**

As a system we are encouraging the Registered Manager to liaise with their support system, working cooperatively with one another to provide the best outcome for the individual and their local communities. We are implementing plans to support you in avoiding admissions to hospital where possible; where this is not possible we are ensuring processes are in place to make discharge as smooth as possible, so we can continue to maintain the flow through the acute setting.

**Trusted Assessor**

To reduce the number of people on the wards at Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT), patients will be assessed by the Trusted Assessor for Care Homes based at the Trust. The Trusted Assessor form will be used for assessment and all patients co-ordinated through to the Personalised Support Team at CWC.

**NHS Mail**

With regard to the new NHS Discharge guidance; **The NHS has stipulated that during the Coronavirus Epidemic is it a priority that all Care Providers obtain NHS Mail to**

Wolverhampton City Council

 [wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://wolverhampton.gov.uk)

 @WolvesCouncil

 WolverhamptonToday

**help the safe transfer of information.** If you have not yet registered for an nhsmail account can you please visit <https://www.wmca.care/digital>, if you have any queries please call Simon Beck on 0121 364 6006 or email [digital@wmca.care](mailto:digital@wmca.care). The guidance will also be loaded on the CWC website.

### **Capacity Tracker**

Capacity across the city will be co-ordinated via information on the Capacity Tracker. All Care homes and Hospices are required to register to use the Capacity Tracker, you are required to input bed capacity on a daily basis. To register please go to <https://carehomes.necsu.nhs.uk/?ReturnUrl=%2Flog-off>. This can take up to 2 work days to activate. Vacancies need to be updated every 24 hrs, West Midlands Care Association will be in touch shortly for support. However, if you do need support please contact please contact [digital@wmca.care](mailto:digital@wmca.care)

### **New admissions and returning residents**

We want to support you to continue to receive admissions and accept residents back to their original setting, the guidance below can be found on the CWC website. If you are unsure or don't have the capacity for returning residents due to increased needs or the requirement of 1:1 care for example, please contact us for support and we will do what we can to meet that need:

<https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/covid-19-managing-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-care-homes>

**“Care homes should remain open to new admissions** as much as possible throughout the pandemic. **They should be prepared to receive back care home residents who are COVID positive** and to isolate them on return, as part of efforts to ensure capacity for new COVID cases in acute hospitals. They should follow the advice from Public Health England when accepting residents without COVID back when there are confirmed COVID cases within a home.”

### **Staff Training**

Providers can access this remotely from the quality team email:

[WOLCCG.Qualitynurseadvisorsteam@nhs.net](mailto:WOLCCG.Qualitynurseadvisorsteam@nhs.net)

### **Uniforms**

We have been getting a number of reports of staff wearing their uniforms to run errands and collect medication, can we urge you to ask staff to change if they are needed to leave and return to the setting you are in but carry their Work ID (or a letter from us to confirm they are key workers if needed) in case they are concerned about being challenged, there is a risk the virus can be passed on from outside if staff do not change.

Please, in the event of an emergency, contact us, we will do what we can to help

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital letter 'R' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that tapers to the right.

Becky Wilkinson  
Head of Adult Improvement  
City of Wolverhampton Council

