

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland stakeholder bulletin #7

Issued on behalf of the NHS in LLR

Date of issue: 24th April 2020



This is the seventh bulletin keeping you updated on the NHS response to Coronavirus in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. If you have any questions or would like to ask about a topic please email us at: PressOfficeLLRCCGs@leicestershire.nhs.uk We will try hard to ensure you have the latest information but as you will be aware the situation is rapidly changing.

Also, please help us reach as many people as possible and share this bulletin with colleagues and your networks. At the end of the bulletin there are links to useful information.

Please continue to support the message on staying at home and in particular help us to tackle misinformation by promoting the official sources of information: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Coronavirus cases in LLR

As at 24th April there were 1367 cases in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) and 183 people at sadly died in Leicester's hospitals (includes Leicestershire Partnership Trust)

Thank you from all of us in LLR NHS

The Clap for Carers seems to go from strength to strength. The support and acknowledgment for the efforts of health and care, and other key workers is really appreciated. It fantastic to know people in LLR are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our teams working in exceptional circumstances. We cant say it enough—thank you!

Two LPT teams featured in ITV's national coverage of the Clap For Carers last week as part of the Get Britain initiative on mental health. If you didn't manage to see it, here is a link to the two-minute broadcast in which they linked with NHS colleagues across the country with the message "stay at home but stay in touch": https://youtu.be/C-6s8Z_C1dg. Here is the [full version](#) of the films they submitted.

'Hot hubs'—clarifying opening times

In the last bulletin we gave details of the new 'hot hub' in New Parks health centre Leicester. 'hot hubs' have been designated specifically to be able to provide face to face appointments for those with coronavirus or symptoms related to coronavirus. The opening times of the three hot hubs are:

Loughborough Urgent Care centre	10am to 8pm
Oadby Urgent Care centre	10am to 8pm
New Parks Health Centre	2pm to 8pm

NHS is open

Andy Williams, Chief Officer for the three CCGs in LLR gave an interview to BBC Radio Leicester on Thursday morning. Andy, on behalf of the NHS in LLR talked about the NHS being there for people who needed help for non-coronavirus health needs. You can hear Andy being interviewed—listen from 1:07 – 1:15 [\(listen here\)](#).

Register for voluntary sector support

Vulnerable people and their families will be able to directly call on the army of NHS Volunteer Responders, the NHS and Royal Voluntary Service have announced today. Over 600,000 volunteers have been approved to help those most at risk who are isolating at home from coronavirus, more than double the original target.

The scheme has been fully operational for two weeks with healthcare practitioners, pharmacists and local authority and social care staff calling on volunteers to carry out around 35,000 tasks to date, including delivering medicines, shopping and other supplies as well as making calls to check in on those isolating at home.

To protect the scheme for those who need it, only those who are clinically at risk or who meet the criteria should refer themselves for support. Referrals can be made by calling 0808 1963646.

Blood pressure? Keep taking the meds

People who take lifesaving blood pressure medication are being urged to continue doing so amid misleading rumours that the medicine could worsen coronavirus infection. Speculation online and on social media has suggested that some high blood pressure medication might make coronavirus symptoms more severe, despite there being no clinical evidence to support the claims.

Health professionals, GPs and other medical providers across Leicester are calling on people who do take prescription medicine for high blood pressure – also known as hypertension – to continue to do so, as stopping may lead to other health problems. [Read more here](#)

Care workers action plan

The Government has published a new national action plan to support the adult social care sector in England throughout the coronavirus outbreak. The Plan includes better access to testing and provision of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items, a campaign to expand the care workforce and the launch of a new unifying identity for the care sector. On testing the aim is that all care workers who need a test will receive one, and all symptomatic care home residents will be tested to prevent outbreaks. To read more please visit [Action Plan for Care Workers](#)

Companies urged to donate PPE

The Lord Lieutenant is teaming up with local councils and business leaders in a new drive urging companies to donate personal protective equipment (PPE) for key workers. The appeal – spearheaded by Mike Kapur – asks firms to donate any new and unused items such as fluid-resistant surgical masks, nitrile gloves, goggles, disposable aprons or overalls, sanitising gel and overshoes, and to consider using their factories or equipment to produce more of these specific PPE items.

Chiefs from Leicestershire County Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership are backing the call to bolster the equipment for staff in the NHS, social care, children's homes, homeless shelters, community pharmacies and more. Mike Kapur OBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, said: "Donations have been brilliant. Now we need to ask to our bigger companies and partners across our area to step in. Could you help? We are looking for PPE equipment in bulk, if possible. Our communities have been so generous. Now we need a response at scale to help keep our frontline workers safe. Businesses can't return to anything like normal until the NHS can get on top of the virus so it's very much in businesses' interest to get on board and help. [Read more.](#)

Useful information

One Prepared is a local source of information for help and services in LLR <https://www.llrprepared.org.uk/one-prepared/>. National information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

For health advice on coronavirus please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/>

For local NHS information see <https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/>