

Adult Care Services



To Day Opportunity Providers (in county)
Including Lunch Clubs and Day Centres

**Community Commissioning – Adult Disabilities
and Community**

By E-mail

**Hertfordshire County Council
SFAR202
Farnham House
Six Hills Way
Stevenage, Herts SG1 2FQ
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk**

Tel: 01438 845060
E-mail: Ted.maddex@hertfordshire.gov.uk
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Dear Colleagues

Changes to Covid Measures for Hertfordshire's Day Opportunity Services

Further to the letter of the 26th July, I am writing to inform you of recent decisions taken regarding Covid safety measures for day opportunity providers.

Whilst restrictions continue to ease nationally, we do continue to see transmission of COVID in the community and as such providers must continue to use all methods to help to reduce the number of infections in your settings

As part of the easing of restrictions, Herts County Council have agreed the following changes to social distancing

From 6th September -

Day centres will be able to move to 1 metre social distancing if the following conditions are met:

- over 90% of staff fully vaccinated (or when there are less than 10 staff all but 2 members of staff are vaccinated).
- Regular testing is undertaken by staff (minimum weekly PCR and twice weekly LFT) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-adult-day-care-centre-workers/at-home-pcr-testing-for-day-care-centres-in-england>
- Testing is available to service users

HCC Transport and Dial-A-Ride will move to 1 metre social distancing and:

- Infection prevention and control measures will remain
- Face coverings continue to be recommended for service users
- Regular twice weekly LFT testing for drivers, service users are recommended to do LFT twice weekly

Changes to guidance on close contacts:

The national guidance on self-isolation requirements for fully vaccinated people who had contact with a Covid positive person has changed, however no specific guidance for day services was published.

In line with advice from Public Health day services should take the following approach: To attend the service or to work the contact must be fully vaccinated, have a negative PCR test, continue daily LFD testing, be symptom free, and the service should risk assess the individual circumstance to take a service specific decision.

Continued guidance:

The Council wish day opportunities, in the community or building based, to enable people to continue to access support where they can be safely provided with Covid-19 infection control measures appropriately in place. The following measures remain in place:

- ✓ Continue to adhere to infection control, including hand hygiene and use of appropriate PPE.
- ✓ Buildings should be well ventilated
- ✓ People should not attend day opportunities / services if they are showing symptoms.
- ✓ Please ensure you have appropriate procedures for checking symptoms (i.e. checking temperature) and supporting people should they feel unwell and need to return home (i.e. isolation space).
- ✓ Those who live in shared accommodation such as residential homes or shared supported living schemes, must not attend if there is an outbreak at their residence.
- ✓ Face coverings and masks are not the same. Please ensure you source approved PPE for staff in accordance with the guidelines. Should you need help, please refer to the guidance below to understand the type of mask required.

If a day opportunity/service experiences a COVID positive case in staff or service users, this must be reported immediately to Commissioners and the HCPA provider hub on 01707708108 / assistance@hcpa.co.uk .

Providers will be invited to attend a webinar 10th September to hear more about current guidelines and ongoing infection control measures. We will contact you soon to provide an invitation link.

Further Guidance

Please keep referring to the following guidance which is updated as and when necessary:

- SCIE for social care sector:
(<https://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19/day-care>)
- Public Health PPE guide:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/925605/PHE_PPE_illustrated_guide_for_community_and_social_care_settings_OCT_2020.pdf

- HCPA Provider Hub:

The hub has been available for information & advice linked to Covid, however it is being relaunched as a one stop-shop for care providers who are being invited to consult the hub about “anything”, not just about issues relating to COVID-19.

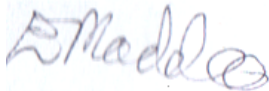
Web: www.hcpa.info/covid-19

Email: assistance@hcpa.info

Phone number: 01707 708 108

Thank you for your continued commitment.

Yours sincerely



Ted Maddex, Senior Commissioning Manager, Community Wellbeing Team