

## Executive Director of Public Health

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## Executive Director of Adult Care Services

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Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Colleagues

### Management of outbreaks of Covid-19 in care settings from 1<sup>st</sup> April

We are writing jointly on behalf of both Adult Care Services and Public Health.

Firstly, we must thank you for your continued efforts to prevent and control Covid-19 in your settings, this continues to have a positive impact on residents, staff and the wider public. As we now move from response to recovery it is appropriate timing to hand the management of Covid-19 outbreaks over to UKHSA and the HCC Public Health Team.

This transition is part of a move to a more business as usual approach as we now live with Covid. This is in line with how all other outbreaks of infectious disease have been managed.

Adult Care Services and Public Health with key partners like HCPA and NHS have led the management of outbreaks since the start of the pandemic and provided dedicated cells and governance structures, expert advice and guidance and an outbreak caller service who have been in close contact with settings.

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023** the outbreak callers will return to their pre pandemic roles and the weekly care home outbreak group will be stood down.

#### **Important to note**

There remains an expectation that you **must** notify UKHSA HPT immediately when you have an outbreak to the following [eastofenglandhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:eastofenglandhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk)

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023 please can you also copy in the HCC Public Health health protection team at [HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk)** and also let us know on the same email address when the outbreak is declared closed.

Your leadership in becoming familiar with the procedures and steps required when you have an outbreak throughout the pandemic has been vital. This makes you best placed to manage the outbreak in your setting in line with the guidance [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

We want to encourage you to undertake a risk assessment and implement proportionate outbreak management measures when positive Covid cases are identified including the initiation of whole home outbreak testing as outlined in [COVID-19 testing in adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) , report to UKHSA HPT and the Local authority Public Health Team.

We remain here to support you.

- We will work with HCPA to organise webinars on health protection for care settings
- Following advice and guidance from UKHSA HPT should you still have questions or concerns you can email the PH team at [HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk) .
- In addition to this should the PH team have concerns or questions they may contact you directly.

We ask when the outbreak is declared over by UKHSA HPT that you notify HCC Public Health Team at [HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



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