



# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland stakeholder bulletin #18

Issued on behalf of the NHS in LLR  
Date of issue: 18th June 2020

Through these bulletins we will keep you updated on the NHS response to Coronavirus in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

We will try to ensure you have the latest information, but as you are aware the situation is rapidly changing. If you have any questions or would like to ask about a topic please email us at: [PressOfficeLLRCCGs@leicestershire.nhs.uk](mailto:PressOfficeLLRCCGs@leicestershire.nhs.uk)

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>.

## Coronavirus cases in LLR

As at 18 June there were 2403 lab confirmed cases in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). 406 people who tested positive with coronavirus have sadly died in Leicestershire's hospitals (University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust).

## Facemasks and coverings in hospitals and other health sites

Visitors and outpatients attending any NHS hospital setting will now be required to wear a face covering to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 and protect themselves. All hospital staff must also wear facemasks. This includes all University of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) hospitals and sites offering treatment.

GP practices in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) are also encouraging their patients to wear a face covering when visiting a surgery.

For patients who are deaf or hearing impaired, NHS staff may use clear masks where possible, as well as visual aids, speech to text apps and sign language.

The new facemask or covering requirement does not affect current visiting restrictions in place at all hospital sites which will be reviewed in response to new guidance. Patients can check online or contact their clinic or service where they have their appointment for further information.

Advice on how to wear and make a face covering can be found on the [government website](#). You can link to the LLR [press release here](#)

## 'Big conversation' needed to address impact of COVID-19 BAME community

Andy Williams, Chief Executive of the LLR CCGs is calling for a big conversation with other local statutory and public sector bodies in LLR to reduce health inequalities. This follows Public Health England's (PHE) recent review into the disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19. The review confirmed that people from BAME (Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities) groups are more likely to die from COVID-19 than people from white, ethnic groups.

[Click here](#) to read the statement from Andy Williams.

## Leicester's Hospitals play a key role in COVID-19 breakthrough

The national RECOVERY trial team announced this week that the drug dexamethasone reduces mortality in ventilated patients with COVID-19 by a third, and in patients requiring oxygen by a fifth. The steroid, normally used to treat asthma, chronic lung conditions and joint problems, can be given as a tablet or injection. It is affordable and readily available not only in this country but all over the world. It has now become the standard of care for hospitalised adults with COVID-19.

Leicester's Hospitals were acknowledged in the government's press briefing on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June for their tremendous efforts on the COVID-19 RECOVERY trial. Almost 500 patients who were treated at one of Leicester's three acute hospitals - Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester General Hospital and Glenfield Hospital - signed up to take part in the research. That is more than twice the number of patients as the next highest recruiting centre in the UK.

The success of the trial here in Leicester is due to the way the joint team from the hospitals and university have come together, bringing all their skills and expertise to tackle COVID-19.

Leicester continues to lead the way in important research into COVID-19, recruiting over 50% of patients with COVID-19 to a medicine trial, and over 95% to all studies into COVID (including observational studies). The national average for hospital recruitment into COVID medicine trials is 13%.

## Learning disabilities awareness week #LDWeek2020

The theme for Learning Disability Awareness Week 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June (#LDWeek2020) is 'friendship in lockdown'.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) is sharing a series of case studies via its social media channels ([@LPTnhs](#)) to highlight how learning disabilities colleagues are supporting service users and their carers during the COVID-19 pandemic, how they are adapting the care they can offer at this time, and the lessons they have learned. The first of these features the [community nurses and occupational therapists in Charnwood](#), and the second features [speech and language therapist, Clare Scott](#).

You can also find out more about LPT's Transforming Care Programme (TCP) across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland in a [video](#), by director of strategy and business development, David Williams.

## Cervical Screening Awareness Week 15th – 21st June

Over the last three months as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic it has been necessary to postpone tests and pause invitations.

In awareness week this year, Jo's Trust is raising awareness of changes because of COVID-19 and what women can expect if they go for screening.

The NHS's cervical cancer screening programme is offered to women aged between 25 to 49 every three years and for women aged 50 to 64 every five years. GP surgeries in LLR will be inviting women who are due for screening to book an appointment and we encourage you attend.

Patients who are overdue for their cervical screening test or may be unsure of when they are due, should contact their GP practice for further information.

Information about cervical screening is available on the [NHS website](#).

Information on Cervical Screening Awareness Week (June 15-21) is available on [Jo's Trust website](#).

## Men's Health Week – 'Take action on Covid-19'

Men's Health Week runs every year in the week before Father's Day. This year, the focus is 'Take Action on Covid-19'.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, it has become clearer that some people are more at risk of contracting and dying

from the virus. For example, people may be more vulnerable if they are older, have underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system. However for unknown reasons, no matter what their age or fitness levels, men too are at a higher risk from Covid-19, particularly if they are from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) groups.

Access the Men's Health Forum for information, advice and support on a range of related mental health topics: <http://www.menshealthforum.org.uk>

Men affected by domestic abuse during lockdown can access help and support from Respect: [www.respect.uk.net](http://www.respect.uk.net)

Respect also has two helplines, one for perpetrators (0808 8024040) and one for men on the receiving end (0808 2000247).

## Health at Home

The COVID-19 outbreak means you should stay at home as much as possible, but it's still easy to get NHS help using your smartphone, tablet or computer.

There are lots of services available to you online, these include:

- ordering repeat prescriptions
- contacting your GP
- information about urgent dental treatment
- managing long-term conditions
- maintaining your mental and physical wellbeing

To find out more visit <https://www.nhs.uk/health-at-home/>

## Non-essential shops in England opening: shop safely

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 'non-essential' shops and indoor markets in England began to reopen and councils in Leicestershire and Rutland have all been working with local businesses, partners and the NHS to ensure high streets are safe places for customers, traders, staff and visitors. [Click here for press release](#)

## 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/>