

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland stakeholder bulletin #14

Issued on behalf of the NHS in LLR

Date of issue: 27th May 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

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 27 May there were 2177 lab confirmed cases in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) 349 people who tested positive with coronavirus have sadly died in Leicestershire's hospitals (University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust).

NHS thanks Muslim staff working through Ramadan and celebrating Eid safely at home

Thank you to our Muslim colleagues in the NHS and beyond, many of whom are working as key workers, for continuing to work whilst fasting during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Covid-19 crisis has required sacrifices from all NHS staff, but Muslims have faced additional challenges over recent weeks working without sustenance during the period of dawn to sunset.

The Covid-19 pandemic also meant that the Muslim community were unable to celebrate Eid al-Fitr in the traditional way. Typically, the festival of Eid sees families come together to celebrate the month's achievement and the breaking of the fast. It traditionally sees big gatherings, meals, parties, and visiting of family and friends, as well as attending special prayers in mosques.

We would like to thank the Muslim community across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for following the social distancing measures and celebrating safely at home this year, just as other religions have had to adapt their own celebrations during this period.

Bereavement information for families, friends, and carers

Local organisations in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland - including local authorities, the Police, coroner's office, NHS, faith leaders, and local funeral, crematoria and burial services - have produced a bereavement support leaflet for the families, friends and carers who have recently lost a loved one due to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

It is hoped that the information will provide those effected with the answers to some of their questions at this difficult time, and point them in the direction of further support.

The leaflet explains what happens next, what you need to do and what will be different in these exceptional circumstances.

To view the leaflet [click here](#)

Resources to help people with a learning disability or autism access NHS services

Two new documents to help people with a learning disability or autism to get the support they need from the NHS during the coronavirus outbreak are now available. One is in [easy read](#) for people with a learning disability and the other for those with [autism](#).

Antibody testing

Antibody testing to show if people have had coronavirus is going to be rolled out from this week. There will be a phased approach with NHS staff and social care staff taking priority. The initial number of tests available will be small but this will be increased by the end of June.

It's important to note that antibody testing does not mean that people have immunity even if they have a positive result and social distancing rules still need to be observed.

For more information about the government's coronavirus antibody testing programme visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-antibody-tests>

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland local authorities chosen to support new test and trace service

Local authorities in LLR are part of eleven areas in England to be selected to share good practice for the [new test and trace service](#), a key element in the Government's fight against coronavirus. Each local authority will be given funding to develop tailored outbreak control plans, working with local NHS and other stakeholders.

Work on the plans will start immediately and focus on identifying and containing potential outbreaks in workplaces, housing complexes, care homes and schools. As part of this work, local authorities will also need to ensure testing capacity is deployed effectively to high-risk locations. Local authorities will work closely with the test and trace service, local NHS and other partners to achieve this.

NHS Diabetes Advice Helpline

A new Diabetes Advice helpline has been launched to support people living with insulin-treated diabetes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The helpline offers clinical advice for people who cannot access their usual care teams due to local service disruption. It is designed to help take some pressure off local GP practices and NHS 111.

The helpline is accessible via Diabetes UK's support line on 0345 123 2399 and is open Monday to Friday from 9am – 6pm.

Clinical research into COVID-19

Last week, the government announced [Leicester's Hospitals will be one of only 5 NHS sites in England to host a new Patient Recruitment Centre \(PRC\)](#) to improve patient access to commercial clinical research. During the coronavirus pandemic the centre will increase opportunities for patients across LLR to access more trials, assess the latest potential treatments for COVID-19, as well as enter large scale trials for vaccines against the disease.

Volunteers needed to understand links between ethnicity, health and effects of COVID19

A study developed by the University of Leicester and funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Leicester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) is calling for volunteers to help it understand why some people develop more severe COVID-19 than others – particularly those from black and minority ethnic communities.

Anyone over the age of 18 living in the Midlands can take part - whether or not they have any long-term health conditions or have had any COVID-19 symptoms. Volunteers who consent to take part will be asked to complete short questionnaires about their health, whether they have had COVID-19 symptoms, and how the pandemic has affected them.

For more information, and to take part, visit www.exceed.org.uk.

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/>