

This guidance was withdrawn on 1 April 2022

The information in this guidance has been superseded by [Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement.](#)



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Provision of Home Care – Keeping people safe from COVID-19



Easy read booklet

March 2022 update

What this booklet is about



This document is for people who provide care in the home. It is about keeping people safe from COVID-19.



A home care provider could be someone who lives there all the time, or could be people who visit the home to give care.



This information is for people who are working as home carers.



You can read this booklet and this one too.

[How to Work Safely in Domiciliary Care Guidance.](#)

Caring for people at home safely



Home carers need to make sure that they are giving the right sort of care for the person or people they look after.



How this happens might need to change to stop people getting COVID-19.

This needs to be thought about very carefully so that any changes do not mean someone misses out on important care.



It needs to be agreed with

- ✓ The person being cared for
- ✓ Any unpaid carers
- ✓ Everyone else involved in looking after them.



What if someone being cared for gets COVID-19?



If anyone getting care has symptoms of COVID-19, they need to take a test.

If they test positive, they should stay at home and keep away from people.

The home carer should report it to their manager.



[Read guidance on what to do if someone has a positive test.](#)



They also need to work with other people, like doctors and nurses, who look after the person.

They should report the test result in the [Capacity Tracker](#).



This is a system that keeps track of COVID-19 cases in home care.

Stopping or pausing care



The person getting care, or their unpaid carer, might want to stop getting care.



This should be thought about carefully with everyone involved to see if it is the best thing to do.



It should be worked out how the person will get their **food** and **medicines**.



You can read more information about how to do this on the [NHS website](#).

Why it is important to get a COVID-19 vaccine

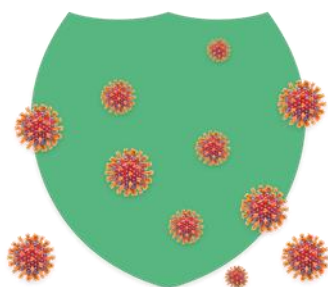


People who get a COVID-19 vaccine are much less likely to get very ill or die from COVID-19.



They need to have 2 doses of the vaccine to get the best protection.

They should also get an extra vaccine called a **booster**.



Please read the [latest information](#) on this.



Everyone can book their vaccine using the [National Booking Service](#).

NHS: Please call us to book a Covid-19 vaccine appointment

Flu Vaccines



It is also important for everyone to get a yearly Flu Vaccine. This stops people getting very ill or dying from Flu.



Carers can get the Flu Vaccine free on the NHS.



You can get the Flu Vaccine at

- Your doctors
- Some pharmacies
- A hospital appointment.



Read more about [Flu Vaccines](#).

Stopping COVID-19 from spreading to more people



It is important to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other infections in the home.

You can do this by wearing **personal protective equipment** or **PPE** for short. This means masks, aprons and gloves.



[How to Work Safely in Domiciliary Care Guidance.](#)

You should



- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your mouth with a tissue if you cough and sneeze
- Try not to touch your face with your hands
- Follow the guidance about [keeping clean](#)
- Know the right way for [putting on](#) and [taking off PPE.](#)



Staff in high risk groups



Some people are at more risk from getting COVID-19. For example, older people or pregnant women.



Staff need to talk about their own risk with their manager. They should look at the [latest guidance](#).



Staff from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups might be more worried about COVID-19 too.



Their managers should talk to them about this in a kind way and give them all the support and help they need.

Testing for home care workers



Read information about [COVID testing for Home Care workers](#).

Home care workers who care for multiple individuals should take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) every day that they are working.



Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should **stay at home** and get a PCR test done straight away.



Read information if someone [tests positive or gets symptoms of COVID-19](#).



This guidance also tells you more about ending isolation before the end of 10 days. This is for staff who have tested positive.

Staff who test positive for COVID-19



You should

- ✓ Stay at home for 10 days
- ✓ Avoid contact with others



You may choose to take a Lateral Flow Test from day 5. If you have **two** consecutive negative Lateral Flow Tests from days 5 and 6 you can safely return to work.

You should still do daily Lateral Flow Tests for at least the rest of the 10 days.



Your manager can ask for proof of your test results before you go back to work.

Read the management of staff guidance for more information.

Support for people who work in Social Care



There is extra money to help people who work in social care.



This is so employers can still afford to pay staff, even if they cannot work because they need to self isolate.



Read more about this money and [how to get it](#).

Useful information



It is important that home care workers follow the [government guidance](#).



It is important that home care managers keep the [capacity tracker](#) updated with new cases of COVID-19.



You can read more information about helping

- ✓ [People with learning disabilities](#)
- ✓ [People who have dementia](#).