

Professionals Visiting Care Homes

By the Covid-19 Support Team

Last Updated: 01 December 2021

For national guidance see:

[Testing for professionals visiting care homes](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes;](#)
[Guidance for visiting professionals](#)

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What do professionals need to evidence

- ▶ All professionals must have evidence of a negative Covid-19 test within 72 hours of the visit to the Care Home. Should there be no evidence, concern of the validity of the result or the professional not take part in regular testing, then an LFD test will need to be taken on the premises before the professional enters the care home.
- ▶ Any professional visitors to the homes as of the 11 November 2021 will need to provide evidence of their vaccination status using the NHS Covid Pass. This can either be confirmation of them having received the full course of the Covid-19 vaccination, or that they are exempt from receiving the vaccine.

Council staff testing regimes

Job Role	Are they regularly tested?	Will they be required to show evidence of vaccination status?
Social Workers	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Commissioners	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
DOLS Team	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Community Care Officers	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Safeguarding Team	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes, unless visiting due to a safeguarding concern.
Best Interest Assessors	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Advocates (Voiceability)	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Moving and Handling Advisors	Yes; PCR weekly	Yes
BACES	Yes; PCR weekly	Yes

Health staff testing regimes

Job Role	Are they regularly tested?	Will they be required to show evidence of vaccination status?
Doctors	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week	Yes
Dentists	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week	Yes
Opticians	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Community/District Nurses	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week From late September will move to LAMP testing once a week	Yes
Community Physios	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week	Yes
Occupational Therapists	Yes (if part of NHS); LFTs twice a week	Yes

Wider staff testing regimes

Job Role	Are they regularly tested?	Will they be required to show evidence of vaccination status?
Delivery Drivers	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
External Maintenance Staff	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes, unless carrying out emergency work
Solicitors	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Clergy	No; must take LFT prior to any visit to a care home	Yes
Police Officers	Yes; LFTs, twice weekly	Yes; unless responding to an emergency call
Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS)	Yes; LFTs, twice weekly	Yes; unless responding to an emergency call
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	Yes; LFTs, twice weekly	Yes; unless responding to an emergency call
Funeral Directors	Depends on each business	Yes
CQC Inspectors	Yes; PCR test, weekly	Yes

Information on testing

Please be aware that any staff who do not receive regular Covid-19 testing and who, as part of their work, need to visit a care setting, OR have not had their regular testing within the last 72 hours, must undertake a lateral flow test prior to their visit.

To access a PCR/LFD test, please click here for the options:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/health/health-advice-and-support/coronavirus-testing-in-bradford-district/>

Lateral Flow Tests are available online and are available via click and collect from your local pharmacy; <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>, or ordered to a home address through; www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/.

Should the visitor test positive on the LFD, they can get a symptomatic PCR test at:

Centenary Square, Bradford

University of Bradford, Bradford

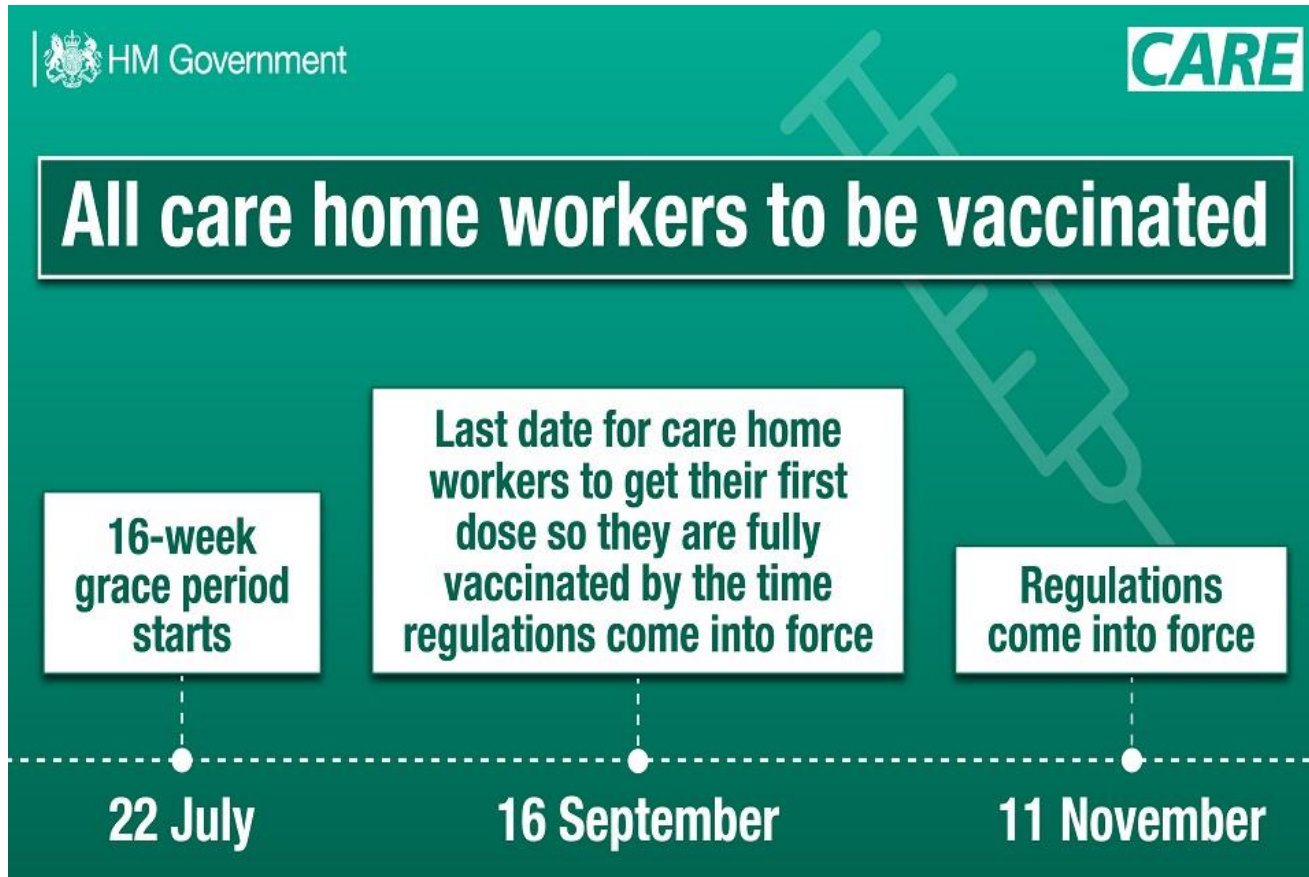
Victoria Hall, Keighley

What tests are available

- ▶ **Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** tests are sent away to a lab to diagnose disease, these check for presence of the Covid-19 virus, which can be detected in the body before symptoms start and before antibodies form. In the lab a substance known as reverse transcriptase is used to increase the viral load within the sample so that it is easier to detect any presence of Covid-19 in the sample.
- ▶ **Lateral flow tests (LFTs)** can diagnose Covid-19 on the spot, but aren't as accurate as PCR tests, these also check for presence of the viral RNA, which can be detected in the body before symptoms start and before antibodies form. The sample is placed on an absorbent pad, as the sample flows through the pad it reaches a strip of antibodies, if there is Covid-19 proteins present, they attach to the antibodies and cause a reaction which confirms infection.
- ▶ **Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP)** tests are a single-tube technique for the amplification of DNA and a low-cost, rapid alternative to the PCR. Instead of using a series of temperature changes to produce copies of the viral DNA, like a PCR test, LAMP is conducted at a constant temperature. Like RT-PCR, LAMP detects whether or not viral RNA is present in samples from a patient.

Mandatory vaccinations

Professional visitors will follow the same timeline as care home workers...



Crossing the threshold of a care home

Full vaccination required - status needs to be checked and confirmed before entry (not an exhaustive list)

Full Vaccination Not Required

Direct Employment

Home Management and Regulation

Supporting Health and Wellbeing

All permanent staff in the care home (any role)
Agency staff (any role)
Permanent staff from other settings
Volunteers

Deep Cleaning Operatives
Window Cleaners
Catering Suppliers
Food Hygiene Checks
Legionella Checks
Carpet Cleaners
Equipment Inspectors
Fire Safety Inspectors
Maintenance and Repairs
CQC Inspectors
NHS Infection Control
Local Authority Inspection Team

Dietician
Social Worker
General Practitioner
Community Nurse
Chiropodist
Physiotherapist
Occupational Therapist
Optometrist
Dentist
Falls Service
Speech and Language Therapist
PHE Testing Teams
Ambulance Services
Funeral Directors
Mental Health Teams
Vaccination Teams
Art Therapist
Music Therapist
Hairdresser/Beauticians
Entertainer

Residents
Essential Carer
Medically Exempt (will need to be evidenced)
Under 18s
Friends and Family visiting a Resident
Emergency Assistance
Urgent Maintenance Workers

Evidence of vaccination status

The NHS App on Smartphones will be one way to evidence your Covid-19 Vaccination status, some useful links have been included below to download and use this app:

- ▶ NHS App: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/>
- ▶ Getting started with the NHS App: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/nhs-app-help-and-support/getting-started-with-the-nhs-app/> (useful video on how to set up NHS login, this needs to be actioned before using the NHS App)
- ▶ NHS COVID Pass: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/> or <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-covid-pass>
- ▶ Get your NHS COVID Pass letter: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/get-your-covid-pass-letter/>

What happens when a professional arrives at the home for a non-emergency visit?

Before entering the care home they will need to...

- ▶ Present evidence of a recorded Covid-19 test, normally a Lateral Flow Test, with a negative result that has been carried out in the last 72 hours.

OR

- ▶ Carry out a Lateral Flow Test on the grounds of the home before entering the building and for this test to come back negative.

AND

- ▶ Use the NHS Covid Pass to present evidence their vaccination status.

OR

- ▶ Recall the vaccination status from your records.

How will a care home record vaccination status?

The care home might have a different method of recording vaccination status of professional visits, the method must comply with GDPR standards. Some systems that could be in use are:

- ▶ Paper records (which would need to be kept in a secure location)
- ▶ Verify Plus

The information that will be asked to record vaccination status will be:

- ▶ Full name
- ▶ Profession
- ▶ Organisation
- ▶ Vaccination Status (fully vaccinated or exempt)

No further information will be asked by the home to record vaccination status of a visiting professional. Should the home ask for more information than the above please use the escalation/reporting process contained within this document.

What will demonstrate vaccination evidence

Covid Pass App



Covid Pass PDF

The PDF document features a large QR code at the top left. To its right is the NHS logo. Below the QR code, it states '2D barcode valid for settings in England that have opted in to NHS COVID PASS'. The name 'Evan GANTES' and the expiry date '22 JUL 2021 1:01 PM' are listed. A section titled 'How to use your NHS COVID Pass' and 'Understanding your 2D barcode code' provides instructions on scanning the code and its validity. At the bottom, it explains 'What to do when my barcode expires?'.

Covid Pass Letter

The letter includes a barcode at the top with the reference '5263-6596-DR36-FG8T-5R4G-655H-710N-8U7P6'. A blue arrow points to the text 'Your unique reference This is to confirm your COVID-19 vaccination record'. The NHS logo is present. The recipient's name and address are: 'Emmanuelle Carrington Whittington-Cunningham, 8888 Northumberland Pentrobrokeshire Gardens, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UA'. The date is '27 May 2021'. The text states: 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination confirmation: two doses received. This document is important. Keep it safe. It proves that you have been vaccinated.' The name 'Emmanuelle Carrington Whittington-Cunningham' and date of birth '15 October 1946' are provided. A table below details the vaccination doses:

Dose 1 of 2		Dose 2 of 2	
Date	2 February 2021	Date	26 May 2021
Vaccine manufacturer	Pfizer-BioNTech	Vaccine manufacturer	Pfizer-BioNTech
Disease targeted	COVID-19	Disease targeted	COVID-19
Vaccine	mRNA	Vaccine	mRNA
Batch	BA 3489 98300	Batch	BA 3489 98300
Country of vaccination	UK	Country of vaccination	UK
Authority	NHS Digital	Authority	NHS Digital
Administering centre	University Hospital of North Durham, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	Administering centre	University Hospital of North Durham, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

Clinical Trial Letter

To Whom it may concern

Confirmation of fully vaccinated status

Name:
Date of birth:
Clinical Trial name:
Clinical Trial participant number:
Clinical Trial register number:

The above person is a registered participant in an authorised NIHR COVID-19 vaccine Clinical Trial and is therefore authorised by the Department of Health and Social Care to hold fully vaccinated status against COVID-19. This letter is provided because the standard NHS routes are not yet able to accommodate the technical details for those people who have achieved COVID vaccination status through a vaccine Clinical Trial.

The holder of this letter should be given equivalent status to someone who can demonstrate their full vaccination status through the COVID-19 status certification service for any future domestic use including pilot events.

Further details on the purpose of this letter can be found online in the letter from Government Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Jonathan Van-Tam on 11 June 2021, which notes that:

"The Department of Health and Social Care makes a firm commitment to all volunteers in formally approved COVID-19 vaccine trials in the UK that you will not be disadvantaged in terms of any future domestic vaccine certification, if introduced, compared to anyone else who has had their vaccines under the standard NHS programme."

By July 2021, all clinical trial participants should be able to demonstrate COVID status through the same routes as people who have had their status captured through the deployed vaccine rollout (e.g. for those resident in England the NHS App). For any future domestic use individuals will be able to obtain a Covid status based on vaccination, being tested, having natural immunity (valid for up to 180 days after testing positive for Covid), participation in an NIHR COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial, or being exempt from vaccination and testing on clinical grounds. In the interim, this letter is provided to NIHR COVID-19 Vaccines Clinical Trials participants to demonstrate equivalence to a vaccinated status.

Signed by PI

Escalation and emergencies

▶ What counts as a emergency?

It is the Registered Manager's responsibility to use their professional judgement to determine whether a situation is an emergency in line with the guidance [HERE](#). Please note that you will need to record all decisions in relation to emergency situations, where people did not present their vaccination status.

Should the emergency staff be able to present their vaccination status, the incident will not have to be recorded. You will only need to log when evidence is not demonstrated.

▶ Who should you ask regarding categorising an emergency?

All responsibility to determine an emergency situation lies with the Registered Manager or the Senior on shift, their decision will be final.

▶ What to do when someone who needs to evidence their vaccination status, but is unable to, tries to enter the home?

Refuse entry and request their details for follow up with their manager/team.

▶ Telemeds or alternatives to someone carrying out an in person visit?

Remember to consider all options when needing support and whether or not a virtual visit or remote contact could assist with the situation at hand.

Template for escalating and reporting emergencies and refusals

Date of Incident	<i>DD.MM.YYYY</i>
Care Home	<i>Name of care home where incident took place</i>
Person Reporting	<i>Person reporting incident</i>
Incident Type (please summarise the incident being reported into one sentence)	<i>Professional refusing to show evidence, Care Home not asking to view evidence, Emergency Admittance...</i>
Details of incident	
<i>Please detail here</i>	
Details of person/service being reported	
<i>Please detail here ... Make sure to include the following; name, profession, organisation and contact details for team/manager</i>	

REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITING PROFESSIONALS

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS VISITING CARE HOMES

VISITING PROFESSIONALS **MUST** PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THEIR COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS

We are committed to keeping people safe! If you are a professional visiting this care home, please make sure you can provide evidence of your Covid-19 vaccination status, otherwise you will be refused entry.

If anyone attempts to enter this care home without evidencing their Covid-19 vaccination status, we are required to follow a reporting protocol via The Covid-19 Support Team who will liaise with the person's line manager and Public Health at Bradford Council.

NO EVIDENCE! NO ENTRY!

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF ENTRY TO A CARE HOME

YOU CAN ALLOW ENTRY INTO THE INDOOR PREMISES OF THE CARE HOME IF:

- They are a resident
- They can present their evidence using the NHS COVID Pass
- The Registered Manager has approved them for emergency assistance or maintenance (please ensure this is recorded and evidenced)
- They are a friend or relative of the resident they are visiting
- They are under the age of 18

AND THEY HAVE A NEGATIVE TEST

YOU MUST REFUSE ENTRY INTO THE INDOOR PREMISES OF THE CARE HOME IF:

- Someone who needs to evidence their vaccination is unable to do so. Professional visitors MUST evidence their COVID-19 vaccination status. **NO EVIDENCE, NO ENTRY!**

Anyone who tries entering a care home without evidencing their COVID-19 vaccination status will be reported to the Covid-19 Support Team who will liaise with the person's line manager and Public Health at Bradford Council. Please ensure all refusals to entry are reported the Covid-19 Support Team.