

Regulation 44 Forum update

June to July 2020

Coronavirus / Covid 19 general update

- Local lockdown
- R
- Consultation
- Vaccine
- Treatments
- Test , track and trace
- September 2020
- Alert level now three.

Local lockdowns

- Local authorities to be given powers to shut down local businesses , venues , events
- Central government likely to follow the Leicester model-guidance already issued and retain powers of closure of certain sectors / industries
- A local lockdown is a partial or full re-imposition of measures to control the spread of the coronavirus in a specific locality, or the deferring of planned easing of restrictions, in response to a localised spike in infections.
- Data on the local infection rate and concentration of cases is gathered by the [NHS test and trace programme](#), which was launched on 27 May, and assessed by the [Joint Biosecurity Centre \(JBC\)](#) together with [Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) and NHS bodies. Directors of public health, who are appointed by local authorities, can also report outbreaks.

What do we need to do?

- Be aware of local lockdown protocols – Local Authority web sites – Covid section.
- Be aware of geographic boundaries of any lockdown and potential need for remote visits.

R in England:-

UK range 0.4 – 1.2 week beginning 13.7.20

Caution in the use of the R rate when balanced against other factors such as infection rate, population size etc

Links for September 2020:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/social-care-plans-from-september-2020>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-plans-from-september-2020>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hmci-commentary-our-plans-for-the-autumn>

What do we need to do?

- Make you sure you keep up to date with both education and social care guidance
- 26% parents are still saying that they do not intend sending their child to school in September- social distancing is the key issue for them
- Likely to be a real focus on health and well being when pupils return
- Potential knock on impact of an outbreak in a year group “bubble” , 14 days social isolation- link to a home we may visit
- Need for a remote visit?

Consultation:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-adoption-and-children-regulations-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Current consultation on the retention of particular areas of the coronavirus amendments- add your view.
- Closes 11.45pm , 5th August 2020
- These are due to leave statute on 25th September 2020.....

Vaccines / treatment updates

- **Clinical trials to test a new coronavirus vaccine developed by researchers at Imperial College London are progressing to the next phase.**
- Earlier this week clinical staff moved to vaccinate a larger number of participants in order to assess the optimal dosage of Imperial's COVID-19 vaccine candidate, following the successful initial phase with 15 volunteers.
- In this next phase of the trial, 105 participants aged 18-75 will be randomised to receive their first shot of one of three doses of the vaccine at a west London facility, followed by a booster four weeks later. The three arms of the study are blinded, so neither participant nor clinical staff will know which dose they have received.
- The first 15 volunteers, who were part of the initial dose escalation phase, will also return to receive their second booster dose in the coming days

- Oxford vaccine trial ongoing
- One issue is that recent studies have found that antibodies in people who have had Covid-19 [drop off steeply](#) over a three-month period after infection. A key question is whether the same drop off is seen in antibodies triggered by the vaccine.
- Currently 115 projects on going. 78 are active- this is worldwide.
- Vaccine development is not usually as fast as this - safety , effectiveness , length of immunity remain key
- Possibly later next year IF it is possible(no change)
- Two anti virals used in HIV have been found to be ineffective against Sars Cov 2(Coronavirus)
- No change :
 - Remdesivir trial ongoing – can help to prevent or reduce severity of stages of Coved
 - Dexamethasone now allowed for general use- can help prevent admission to ITU and lower mortality rates

Vaccine/ therapy trials

Test , track and trace.

- Currently have a “manual system “ in place with 25,000 contact tracers.
- This is varying between 81-7% and 90%
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-methodology/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-methodology>
- Potential issues arising in childrens’ homes , schools etc re. social isolation of all staff etc with positive contacts- waiting for the Department for Education to reply to the sector
- Local protocols in place if a focussed outbreak occurs e.g. in a residential care home- we need to be aware of these. Local Authority web site – Covid 19 pages- protocols usually sit there.

September- social care- discussion with RMs 21.7.20

- Reporting- no graded judgements a published letter / report to the provider / LA
- Serious or widespread concerns will be noted
- Requirements and recommendations will be made if necessary
- Enforcement powers if needed
- For residential care providers this runs from September 2020 to March 2021
- For LA's from September 2020 to end December 2021 – may be longer dependent on second pandemic wave etc
- Methodology as the SCCIF etc

September –social care-discussion with RM's 21.7.20

- Who?

- prioritise based on needs / risks
- homes the most concerned about
- not previously inspected or not inspected for a while

- How?

- Off site activity- paperwork , parents , other professionals etc.
- Up to 2 days (shorter in total – usually 4 days allocated) – means they can do more assurance visits

- So – treat it as an inspection visit? What do you think?

September -social care- discussion with RM's 21.7.20

- Covid context- how decisions are made during this period
- Reflecting and recognising the creativity we have seen- have you reflective documents setting out why these things were done
- An example might be face to face contact , overnight stays with family , siblings etc- balance of risk , mitigation , outcomes
- Reflect on placements made during lockdown and processes followed , why etc
- Make sure all the usual regulatory documents are up to date – annexe A , regulation 45 etc.
- Strategically – team , young people discussion , reflections on the period of time from February 2020 and ongoing. Lessons learned , plan for local lockdown , plan for new pandemic in place.

Issues for Visitors

- Visits – garden , separate office space, one metre plus , 2 metre rule , tours of the home- how is it going?
- Awareness of Ofsted guidance visits
- Continuing focus / relevance of visit reports for Ofsted