

Date: 11/01/2021

Bulletin available as printable pdf

GMB has requested an update from THG in light of the new variants of the COVID 19 virus.

TESTING

All services now have or have been sent (maybe not received yet) Lateral flow tests – the process should be moving to is 2x lateral flow tests each week with 1x PCR test and records of those tests are being held by each of the services. THG are still working through some of the processes as the recommendation for social care sites is not the same guidance

in hospital settings, THG will keep GMB informed of any changes required. Any essential visitors, i.e. quality team, hr team etc. will have to undertake a lateral flow test the day before attending service.

VACCINATION

How will THG assist staff to receive their vaccinations?

There are 4 (2x Scotland) out of our 12 services have received (or due to in the next week) their first vaccines, we have submitted our numbers to NHSE also for vaccines and working closely with NHSE on the delivery programme – so we are still not completely clear at this point how all this will work but we are keeping a close eye and will support any colleague who is called for a vaccine to attend.

FURLOUGH & SHIELDING

- Visiting risk assessment have been reviewed and we are following the appropriate guidance on visiting.
- Our clinically extremely vulnerable colleagues will be furloughed (or anyone who



receives the notification to shield), we are offering furlough to anyone with childcare or caring responsibilities that have no other alternatives. Our pregnant colleagues in 3rd trimester are also being encouraged to remain at home and will be furloughed with top up.

- COVID Isolation/sickness payments
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COVID SICKNESS AND ISOLATION PERIODS

All staff will receive full pay for any period of isolation sick pay as a result of COVID19

PPE

Update on levels of PPE – no issues with PPE – our average stock days held are 97 days.

The Huntercombe group is urging all staff to take the opportunity of receiving the COVID 19 vaccination.

GMB's priority remains in keeping our members safe at work which is why throughout the Pandemic we have been regularly updating our Coronavirus Hub with all the information you need to keep yourself safe. You can check it out at: [Get It Right | The Coronavirus Hub | GMB](#)

If you have concerns that you may have contracted Covid-19 in the workplace, please record your details on the GMB Risk Register at: [COVID-19 Risk Register | GMB](#)

UNION VISITS TO YOUR WORKPLACE

It will be many months before we see a return to any form of 'normality'. Covid-19 will still present a danger to social care workers and the people you care for. As a result, it means that your GMB Union Representatives may continue to have difficulties visiting you in your workplaces.

However, we want you to know that we are still here. We are considering a variety of ways that we can get information to you and engage with you on your issues in the workplace. One way to do this is to arrange a virtual online meeting for your workplace. If you would like to book one of these please contact your local GMB representative or email PublicServices@gmb.org.uk

ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CORRECT?

It is essential that your membership details are up to date so that we can ensure you are



kept up to date with advice and guidance relevant to you.

You can update your details by contacting your local GMB Representative or online **using the GMB website**.

Not a GMB Member? **Join today!**

Find information about **becoming a GMB Representative** in your workplace!

Facebook: **GMB Social Care**

Twitter: **@GMBSocialCare**

Previous Bulletins

Date: 16/03/2020

Full details about Coronavirus for GMB members is available on our dedicated webpage and can be accessed using the following link:



The GMB is in regular communication with The Huntercombe Group regarding their Covid-19 planning, including managing staff absences from work. Information and advice is changing daily and we will endeavor to keep you up to date with developments.

Below is a summary of some key areas you may have concerns about.

- It is expected that usual sick pay policies will apply should staff need to self-isolate. Your Home Managers will be able to advise you further on this.
- Any staff who may be vulnerable due to underlying health conditions are advised to report these to HR to ensure you receive the full support and protection needed.
- Regular updates on the changing nature of Covid-19 and the impact on your Care



Home are given to your Managers who are responsible for keeping all staff updated of developments.

- Non-urgent visits to Care Homes will be restricted and this may include visits from your GMB Trade Union Representatives.

The GMB understands that this is a time where many of our members, who have already been working under immense pressures, will be expected to go over and above, more so than normal. We want to assure you that we are doing everything in our power to get you the protection and support that you need.

If you are affected by any of the above and need further guidance and support, please speak with your local GMB representative.

Not a GMB Member? Join today at www.gmb.org.uk/join

