

Leicester Partnership NHS Trust Delivery of Health Care Provision in Schools; Special and Mainstream (From 8 March 2021)

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) are recovering services to support the children and young people (CYP) of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) to access healthcare support when they return to school.

Prior to the most recent “lockdown” health services were entering a ‘recovery’ phase and starting to re-initiate services. LPT will continue to reinstate of school-based contact where essential.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust deliver an array and breadth of health provision in schools, for example; nursing care, therapy provision, emotional and mental health services, public health services, nutrition & dietetics and the school age immunisation service. Each area of health care will require differing levels of contact with CYP.

When health services were scaled down under government guidance, health provision was only delivered in a face to face context where it was not possible to deliver over the phone or digitally (video link), AND clinically necessary. However, the delivery of health provision is being stepped up, we aim to increase our face to face contacts where required. Some CYP may not have received face to face care for some time; we now need to review some of these non-urgent cases to ensure there are no emerging health issues and to continue to deliver face to face care where it has already been established it is essential. Health services will continue to deliver provision via telephone or a digital platform, where possible, to reduce contact with CYP in order to minimise the risk of infection and where care can be equally effective.

As a result, we would like to update you regarding the re-establishment of health provision entering schools and work together to ensure health provision can be delivered safely and effectively with minimal disruption to school life.

Below outlines the main areas which we feel are important for you to be aware of;

Key points:

- All LPT staff have now been offered a Covid vaccination, in addition to this staff have access to lateral flow testing
- Health staff are required to wear Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) in school. The level of PPE worn will depend on the level of contact that health staff will require with the CYP. However, all health staff will be wearing a face mask when they arrive at school and for the duration of their stay. Aprons gloves, Goggles, or visors will be required for health staff that are unable to social distance and/or need to have contact with the CYP. The Department of Education Guidance (2020) states that school staff should NOT routinely wear PPE. In contrast, Leicestershire Partnership Staff may visit more than one CYP within a school, or more than one school in a day,

so it is appropriate for PPE to be worn by LPT staff to reduce the risk of transmission of infection. In addition, a CYP who has a tracheostomy or a CYP who is having active chest physio; LPT staff will be required to wear FFP3 masks, gown, gloves, and visor. Immunisation Staff will not be wearing the same level of PPE as some other services due to our transient interactions with young people.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910885/COVID-19_Infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_FINAL_PDF_20082020.pdf

- LPT staff will contact the school prior to their visit to ensure it is safe to visit and to consider environmental conditions i.e., health staff may require a room, and to ascertain how CYP are grouped/arranged in the school
- LPT staff will inform school if they require school staff to wear PPE while undertaking a procedure to maintain the safety of school staff
- The National Child Measuring Programme (NCMP) takes place each year between January and March. Children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight taken. While schools have been closed to most children, this has been postponed. Healthy Together is awaiting national guidance on how the programme progresses in light of schools reopening. If NCMP is to be completed in the summer term Healthy Together will be in touch with individual schools to discuss what support is required.
- The School Aged Immunisation Service will begin to attend schools in March to recommence our teenage booster, meningitis ACWY and HPV programmes. It remains extremely important that CYP receive these vaccinations.
- Hearing Screening for Key Stage 1 children are to be resumed, plans will be communicated with individual schools once plans have been finalised
- Some health staff will be wearing a uniform when they previously haven't; this is for infection, prevention, and control purposes.