

Staff Update

16 February 2021



Thank you, once again, for all your efforts over the last few weeks. The cold weather has brought some disruption, but I am pleased to be able to tell you that this has been kept to a minimum.

COVID Testing

Please do remember to do your COVID test each week. Testing is a really important part of keeping everyone safe, and it is essential that we all participate. As always, if you have any questions or need any help, please do talk to your Team Leader or Manager.

Links to the CV testing guide, and a whole raft of information can be found at the COVID information centre on our website: <https://www.libertas.co.uk/coronavirus-information/>

PPE

No update would be complete without a quick mention. Please do keep using your PPE, even where vaccinations have taken place. Everyone should have a good supply now; it has been my drive throughout the pandemic to try to ensure everyone has a whole box of masks in their possession – something almost unthinkable a few months ago, but hopefully has now come true.

Vaccinations

Our initial rollout of vaccination appointments is complete, everyone should now have had the opportunity of their first vaccination. If you have not been contacted, please talk to your Manager urgently.

I apologise if you have been contacted multiple times about seemingly the same thing. Early vaccine rollout was predictably a little chaotic, with slots opened suddenly and made available to a host of organisations (not just us), with the ensuing scramble to book slots and release people from rosters. At this stage we are confirming lists and data – who has, who's waiting, who hasn't – so please bear with us if we call or email more than once.

If you are about to go for a vaccination appointment, please remember to take you eligibility letter and ID with you – the vaccination centre may turn you away without these. Eligibility letters have been distributed by both email and post, and if you are unsure again please do talk to your Manager.

Data and evidence continue to grow about the protection offered by single dose vaccination, alongside the effect of vaccination on transmission. At the moment the best advice I have heard is, first dose may not stop you getting the virus, but it will almost certainly keep you out of hospital if you do.

We are so very lucky to have been offered such early appointment slots, and while I know some people have been a little anxious about the vaccine, this is truly the way forward and with any luck the way out of the craziness that has been the last year or so. If you have declined the vaccine, or are still thinking about it, I urge you to consider very carefully the information available, and the pros and cons of vaccination. Any of you colleagues will be happy to talk it through with you.

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A £35 compensatory payment is now available for people who have had their first vaccination dose, to help towards travel costs, time away from work etc. You can claim the payment, and register your vaccination status by filling in the short form here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9pf4rgFRxkew1k2ISvbBjwPi9-QXWE5PtPxmRcaxVSVURDBaM1dKNU1MRjVDS0VYSdMxWjJPSjc4OSQIQCN0PWcu>

The payment will be added to your normal salary once the form is fully complete and submitted.

RM Gainsborough

We are delighted to welcome Lois Gower to the team as Registered Manager at Gainsborough. Lois joins us from a long and successful career delivering care and support to a wide variety of clients. Libertas will of course bring its own challenges, and Lois is looking forward to bringing her experience and expertise to bear. Lois' appointment frees up Vicky Stewart in the role of Senior Delivery Manager, and we look forward to seeing more of Vicky across all branches and operations as Lois settles in.

As lockdown 3.0 continues, we remain a little way away from what we all remember as normal life. With the vaccine rollout, and declining cases within our own services and throughout the country, it is tempting to believe that we are seeing the beginning of the end. I genuinely hope this is true; in the meantime, don't let your guard down just yet, and as always, thank you for your professionalism.

Tom