

COVID-19 Vaccination Issue

Welcome to the third edition of the East of England Older People's Mental Health and Dementia Newsletter. Given the current circumstances around COVID-19 in the UK and the NHS efforts to vaccinate millions in the coming months, this special issue will exclusively feature guidance and resources relating to the vaccination process for COVID-19 and dementia.

Please let us know if there is any specific content you would like to see included in future, or any further resources on COVID-19 vaccination which could be circulated via our mailing list. Please forward this on to any networks and colleagues you think may be interested. You can sign up by emailing ben.adams4@nhs.net. Previous editions will be available on the Older People's Mental Health page on the [East of England Mental Health Programme Workspace](#). If you have not registered to join the NHS Futures Collaborations platform, you will be asked to do so. This is an easy process and Ben can provide support if necessary, at the above email.

Resources

[Dementia UK Guide on Giving the COVID-19 Vaccine to Someone with Dementia](#)

Carers, relatives and registered Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) for Health and Welfare may be required to support relatives with dementia in getting the COVID vaccine. This brief online guide includes information on gaining consent for the vaccine, respecting the person's independence, and supporting them before, during and after the vaccine.

[Dementia UK FAQ on COVID](#)

This set of frequently asked questions is regularly updated to support those living with dementia and their families and carers, including information on the vaccination programme, different living arrangements and how to deal with communication issues and isolation.

[National Mental Capacity Forum webinar on the Mental Capacity Act and COVID vaccination in care homes](#)

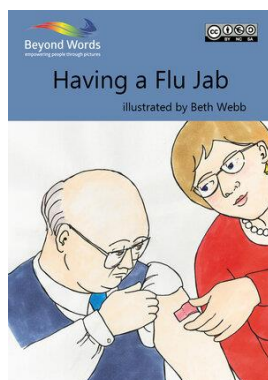
The National Mental Capacity Forum, a joint initiative by the Department of Health & Social Care and the Ministry of Justice, have organised a series of webinars on COVID-19 including one held on the 18th December on Mental Capacity Act and vaccinations in care homes. It aimed to share knowledge and reinforce good practice in consenting patients for COVID vaccinations and address practical issues faced within the care home environment.

[Essex Autonomy Project FAQs on the Mental Capacity Act](#)

The Essex Autonomy Project has published a brief frequently asked questions guide to the Mental Capacity Act including details on how to assess capacity and when a family member or caregiver is able to refuse the vaccine on behalf of a patient.

[Alzheimer's' Society guide on consent to COVID-19 vaccination](#)

This brief guide outlines the issues surrounding the COVID-19 vaccination, dementia and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 which protects people who lack the capacity to make decisions on medical care.



[Books Beyond Words accessible picture-books about COVID](#)

Charity Books Beyond Words, who create accessible picture-books for people with intellectual disabilities and conditions like dementia, have released several leaflets relating to COVID-19 for free. This includes 'Having a Flu Jab' which could be adapted and may be useful in having conversations about the COVID-19 vaccination.

[Department of Health & Social Care guidance on the Mental Capacity Act](#)

This set of guidance from the Department of Health & Social Care clarifies how different forms of COVID-19 care, including testing, vaccination and life-saving treatment, should be conducted in relation to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in different settings.

[Social Care Institute for Excellence guides on mental capacity and COVID-19](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has published a series of guides on mental capacity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic including on the implications of the Mental Capacity Act and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and the making of best interest decisions.

[Mencap Easy Read Guides](#)

The learning disability charity Mencap produce a set of easy-read guides on COVID-19 including alert levels, self-isolating, keeping safe from scams and the recent vaccine. These may be useful for those with dementia and can be found at this link.

Those on the circulation list for this newsletter will also be sent info on how to attend NHSE/I regional events. If you are not on this list, contact Ben Adams to be added or for more information: ben.adams4@nhs.net.

This newsletter is produced by the East of England Regional Clinical Network for Older People's Mental Health & Dementia. It is provided on an opt-out basis. If you received this email in error or no longer want to receive the bulletin, please email ben.adams4@nhs.net. Please contact Ben if there is any content that you would like to see in future editions.

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