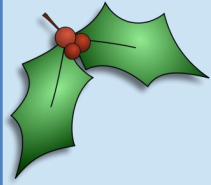
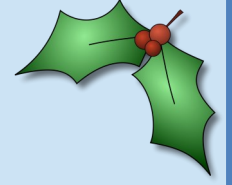


IPC Bulletin for GP Practice Staff

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Guidance for seasonal decorations during COVID-19



Please follow your local advice on seasonal decorations in the first instance. Seasonal decorations can impede effective cleaning of the environment. During winter, there is an increase in cases of Norovirus, Flu, RSV and *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) and this year there is also COVID-19. Cleaning, as in all previous years, remains extremely important. We are aware you would like to ensure patients who visit the practice over the festive season are able to enjoy a cheerful atmosphere, without having an adverse impact on infection prevention and control. Therefore, the following guidance for seasonal decorations have been produced for you to consider:

- Decorations should be single season use and disposed of when taken down unless they are washable/wipeable with a disinfectant which destroys *C. difficile* spores and is effective against COVID-19
- Ideally, decorations should only be hung or displayed on walls, i.e. so they cannot be touched
- Avoid putting decorations on horizontal surfaces, including the floor, as this impedes thorough cleaning of the area
- No wood, straw or live trees should be used
- No cloth or knitted toys should be displayed
- Decorations can be displayed in staff offices and rest rooms following the above guidance
- No decorations should be displayed in consulting or clinical rooms

Following this guidance will help minimise the risk of infection, facilitate environmental cleaning, whilst ensuring a festive environment for your patients and staff.

External cleaning companies

If you use an external cleaning company, particularly for a 'deep clean', please ensure that they follow the guidance below:

- First, clean with a pH neutral detergent solution, e.g. Hospec and warm water, or detergent wipes
- Then, disinfect using either:
 - ◇ A chlorine-based product at 1,000 parts per million, e.g. Milton, 50 ml in 1 litre of cold water; or
 - ◇ A virucidal product that is tested and conforms to EN testing standard EN14476; or
 - ◇ 70% alcohol wipes
- Alternatively, a 2-in-1 cleaning and disinfection product, e.g. Chlor-Clean, Actichlor-plus, Clinell Universal Wipes, can be used as a one-step method

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download, e.g. IPC Policies.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk Tel: 01423 557340 , or, find us on:

