

IPC Bulletin for Care Home staff

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To support Care Home staff, here is some information on good infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.

Viral gastroenteritis/Norovirus is on the increase

Prevent and protect

Help prevent transmission:

- Wash your hands with liquid soap and warm running water and dry with paper towels:
 - ◇ After using the toilet
 - ◇ After assisting residents with personal care
 - ◇ Before preparing, handling, serving and eating food and beverages
 - ◇ Before work, staff breaks and lunch and before you go home
- Encourage residents to wash their hands or help them use moist non-alcohol hand wipes before eating or drinking
- Do not use alcohol handrub as it is not effective at killing the virus
- Manage episodes of diarrhoea and vomit promptly, wearing disposable gloves and apron
- Following an episode of diarrhoea and vomiting, clean and disinfect the environment, including commonly touched surfaces, with a chlorine-based product, e.g. Milton. Make a fresh solution every 24 hours
- Isolate symptomatic residents where possible until symptom free for 48 hours
- Advise visitors not to visit unless they are symptom free for 48 hours. Encourage visitors to wash their hands on entering and leaving the Care Home
- If a resident requires hospital admission, whether they are symptomatic or not, the receiving ward/hospital should be informed if the Care Home is closed due to diarrhoea and vomiting



Remember:

Alcohol handrub is **not** effective at killing the virus causing diarrhoea and vomiting, therefore, hands should be washed with liquid soap and warm running water

Further advice:

If you require advice for any infection prevention and control issue, please contact your local Community Infection Prevention and Control or Public Health England Team

Visit our website to view the 'Viral gastroenteritis/Norovirus Policy for Care Home settings'

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk 01423 557340

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