

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.

Safe management of the care environment - advice regarding 'fogging' during COVID-19

The cleanliness of the environment is an **essential** step in tackling the spread of infection, including COVID-19, in care homes. 'Fogging' is a process of disinfecting the environment or equipment using a machine which generates tiny droplets of a chemical which travels through the air and lands on surfaces.

Fogging is being offered by a number of companies to care homes. However, there is no national guidance on how effective they are at disinfecting, therefore, we do not recommend the use of these machines and would advise the following:

Cleaning and disinfection of the environment and equipment

It is important to always thoroughly clean before you use a disinfectant to ensure the disinfectant works effectively.

- 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.

Don't rely on temperature screening for detection of COVID-19

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulated Agency (MHRA) states that "There is little scientific evidence to support temperature screening as a reliable method for detection of COVID-19 or other febrile illness, especially if used as the main method of testing".

Temperature readings from thermal cameras and other 'temperature screening' products, e.g. hand held non-contact thermometers, measure skin temperature rather than core body temperature. In either case, temperature variations can occur in healthy people, therefore, these readings are unreliable for detection of COVID-19 or other illness causing fever. Additionally, infected people who do not develop a fever or do not show any symptoms (asymptomatic) would not be detected by a temperature reading and are more likely to spread the virus unknowingly. Only use medical devices for temperature screening which are regulated by MHRA.

Remember the main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- High temperature
- New continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

For further information visit: www.gov.uk/government/news/dont-rely-on-temperature-screening-products-for-detection-of-coronavirus-covid-19-says-mhra

A new set of Community Infection Prevention and Control Policies for Care Home settings
are now available to download from our website at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk.
Alternatively, these are available to purchase in full colour in a presentation ring binder @ £79.99 plus P&P.
Please call us on 01423 557340 for more information.