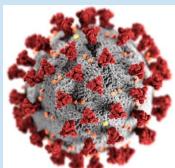


IPC Bulletin for GP Practice Staff

Issue No. 29 - September 2020

COVID 19



Are you prepared for the coming winter season?

In addition to COVID-19 continuing this winter, patients and staff are particularly susceptible to infections which normally increase over the winter months, such as seasonal influenza (flu) and stomach infections, e.g. Norovirus.

Be prepared

- Flu vaccination - ensure staff and eligible patients within the practice are immunised against flu (staff administering vaccinations/injections must apply hand hygiene between patients and wear a sessional facemask).
- Ensure Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) policies are up-to-date and followed by staff.
- Ensure all staff are trained in personal protective equipment (PPE) donning and doffing.
- Ensure alcohol handrub/handwashing facilities are available for patients and staff, including entrance with instruction posters.
- Declutter communal spaces and clinical rooms to assist decontamination.
- Ensure clinical rooms have the necessary equipment for patient examinations, adequate PPE and clinical waste bins.
- Where possible, identify toilet facilities for the sole use of patients with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Ensure the 'Practice business continuity plan' is up-to-date.

Standard infection control precautions

- Respiratory etiquette - Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.
- Main physical distancing of 2 metres at all times (unless wearing PPE due to clinical care).
- Ensure staff follow good hand hygiene practice.
- Use of face coverings by all patients (if tolerated) and visitors when entering GP surgery.
- Frequent decontamination of equipment and environment. Clean with a pH neutral detergent solution or detergent wipes. Then, disinfect using 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 can be used as a one-step method.

Further information

Guidance and standard operating procedures:

General practice in the context of coronavirus (COVID-19)

www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/CO485_guidance-and-standard-operating-procedures-general-practice-covid-19.pdf

COVID-19: Guidance for the remobilisation of services within health and care settings: Infection prevention and control recommendations
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910885/COVID-19_Infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_FIN_AL_PDF_20082020.pdf

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

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