

# IPC Bulletin for Staff providing Domiciliary Care

## Issue No. 25 - February 2021

Supporting Domiciliary Care staff with an example of good infection prevention and control practice in the use of PPE.

### Donning personal protective equipment (PPE)

Carol works as a care assistant for a domiciliary care provider and she has just arrived at Jean's house for her second call of the day. Jean lives with her husband Thomas and daughter Amber. Carol telephoned ahead of her visit requesting that a window be opened for in the room where she would be providing care to ensure good ventilation.

Jean requires personal care so Carol cleans her hands with alcohol handrub and puts on her personal protective equipment (PPE) in the hallway. Carol puts on her apron first, followed by face mask, eye protection (as Jean coughs frequently) and lastly her gloves. She asks both Thomas and Amber to stay in another room while she goes in to see Jean. Carol asks Jean, if it okay to leave the window open during her visit, which Jean agrees to.

After Carol has finished assisting Jean with her personal care, she then moves to the door to start removing her PPE.

### Doffing personal protective equipment (PPE)

At the door Carol firstly removes her gloves and places them in the rubbish bag and cleans her hands with alcohol handrub. She then removes her apron, ensuring that she doesn't touch the front of it, and carefully places it into the rubbish bag. She cleans her hands again with alcohol handrub and removes her eye protection, which she places in a box, with a lid, for her to decontaminate later. She cleans her hands and removes her face mask making sure not to touch the front of it and disposes of it into the rubbish bag. Finally, she cleans her hands again with alcohol handrub and ties the rubbish bag. Carol leaves Jean and Thomas's home and places the rubbish bag outside ready to be disposed of in 72 hours which Thomas is aware of.

### Key points to remember to stay safe:

- **Never** double glove
- 2 metres social distancing (except when providing direct care while wearing correct PPE)
- Regular hand hygiene - 20 seconds minimum
- BBE (Bare Below the Elbows)
- Clean hands after removing each item of PPE
- Enhance cleaning of high touch areas (door handles, call bells, telephones, light switches, etc)
- Wash uniforms daily and separately from the family wash at 60 degrees, unless the garment label states otherwise
- Respiratory and cough hygiene -  
Catch it, Bin it, Kill it

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download. [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk)

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