

# IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

Issue No. 35 - November 2021



## Seasonal IPC issues



In care homes this season, remember to keep you and your residents safe, follow the [government's guidance](#) on the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear and when, always remove PPE safely and decontaminate your hands after each item of PPE is removed.

PPE recommendations when within 2 metres of a resident and carrying out direct personal care to someone who is COVID-19 positive or who is isolating.



Recommendations when within 2 metres of a resident and carrying out direct personal care (where there is a risk of contact with respiratory symptoms or body fluids).



Recommendations when within 2 metres of a resident who has no symptoms and a negative test for COVID-19, and carrying out direct personal care.



Recommendations when within 2 metres of an individual, but not carrying out direct personal care.



Recommendations when more than 2 metres from a resident undertaking domestic duties or other activities and not delivering personal care, e.g. cleaning, laundry, tidying.



## Guidance for seasonal decorations



Seasonal decorations can prevent effective cleaning of the environment and harbour bacteria and viruses. Below are some practical suggestions which will allow residents and staff to enjoy a festive atmosphere over the season without having an adverse impact on infection prevention and control.

- Place Christmas trees in an area where contact or touching is minimal. If appropriate, arrange a discrete boundary around the tree.
- Decorations should be single season use and disposed of when taken down unless they are washable or wipeable with a disinfectant.
- To facilitate frequent cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, try to avoid putting decorations on horizontal surfaces keeping them free from clutter.
- Decorations that are hung or displayed on walls should be at a height they can't be touched.
- Display cloth and knitted toys where they can't be touched.
- Residents can display their own Christmas tree and decorations in their room.
- Remember, if there is an outbreak of infection in the home, after the outbreak is over the decorations must be appropriately cleaned and disinfected or disposed of.
- Following this guidance can help minimise the risk of infection, facilitate environmental cleaning, whilst ensuring a festive environment for your residents and staff.

### What's new:

**Infection prevention and control for seasonal respiratory infections in health and care settings (including SARS-CoV-2) for winter 2021 to 2022**

Produced 24 November 2021 available from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

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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