

# IPC Bulletin for Staff providing Domiciliary Care

## Issue No. 29 - November 2021



### Keep IPC in focus this winter



When caring for people in their homes this winter season, remember to follow the [government guidance](#) on what personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear and when, always remove it safely and decontaminate your hands after removal of each item of PPE. Service users receiving support in domiciliary settings are likely to be more vulnerable and to experience worse outcomes in relation to the virus than the general population, so it is particularly important that this is reflected in the approach of staff who provide support to them.

PPE requirements when within 2 metres of the service user and carrying out direct personal care or domestic duties, irrespective of whether they have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive. Use eye protection if there is a risk of splashing of body fluids (including respiratory secretions) into the eyes.



PPE requirements when more than 2 metres from a service user undertaking domestic duties and not delivering personal care.



### 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 website: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)**



### Guidance for seasonal decorations



Seasonal decorations can impede effective cleaning of the environment and can harbour bacteria and viruses which can be passed onto others if they cannot be cleaned. Below are some practical suggestions for offices and staff rest rooms which would allow staff to enjoy a cheerful atmosphere over the festive season without having an adverse impact on infection prevention and control.

- Decorations should be single season use and disposed of when taken down unless they are washable or wipeable with a disinfectant.
- To facilitate frequent surface cleaning and disinfection procedures, try to avoid putting decorations on horizontal surfaces keeping them free from clutter.

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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