



Identification and management of outbreaks of COVID-19 in care/residential homes

If **any** residents (or staff) in the care home develop **any** of the following symptoms:



Fever of
37.8°C
or above



A new, continuous
cough



Loss of
sense of
taste or
smell

Contact the local PHE Health Protection Team (HPT) on 0113 386 0300, so a risk assessment can be undertaken, and diagnostic swabs sent out.



If 2 or more residents and/or staff meet these criteria within 14 days of each other, in the same area of the care home, you may have an outbreak of COVID-19. Contact the HPT and take the following steps:



What the HPT will do:

- Work with care home staff to identify the cause of the outbreak
- Advise on infection prevention and control measures
- Arrange for swab kits to test ALL residents and staff in the care home (symptomatic or asymptomatic).

Ensure standard infection control measures are put in place immediately, including (but not limited to):

- Isolate **any** suspected/confirmed cases amongst residents for 14 days from symptom onset.
- Suspend visitor access to affected resident(s) for 14 days from symptom onset.
- Staff in contact with the resident should use appropriate PPE.
- Care home to ensure all staff, visitors and residents are aware of and practice good respiratory and hand hygiene.
- Ensure appropriate cleaning procedures are adhered to.
- If any staff members are symptomatic (temperature $\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$, a new, continuous cough or loss of sense of taste or smell) they should self-isolate at home for 10 days from symptom onset.
- Check the government website [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) for the latest guidance on admission and care of residents during Covid-19 incident in a care home, cleaning in non-healthcare settings, and staying at home guidance (for staff and visitors).
- If patient requires hospital transfer, **please ensure receiving department and ambulance service are informed of outbreak.**