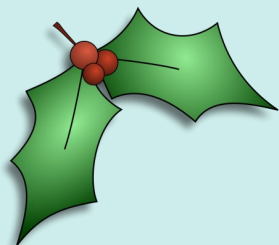
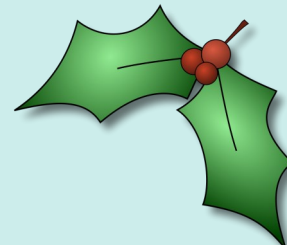


# IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

Issue No. 41 - December 2022



## Guidance for seasonal decorations



During winter, there is an increase in cases of Norovirus, Flu and COVID-19. Seasonal decorations can prevent effective cleaning of the environment and harbour bacteria and viruses. Cleaning during the festive season remains extremely important.

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.

- Decorations should either be single season use and disposed of when taken down or washable/wipeable so they can be decontaminated before being stored away for next season.
- To facilitate frequent cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, try to avoid putting decorations on horizontal surfaces keeping them free from clutter.
- Garlands that are hung up high are less likely to be contaminated/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

- QNI IPC Champions Network event: 25/01/23 , 2.00-4.00pm via Zoom. To book please visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-network-meeting-tickets-453873386517](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-network-meeting-tickets-453873386517)
- Cleaning and disinfecting a commode for Care Home settings [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/cleaning-and-disinfecting-a-commode-for-care-home-settingsposter/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/cleaning-and-disinfecting-a-commode-for-care-home-settingsposter/) (free to download)
- Cleaning and disinfecting a commode pan or bed pan manually for Care Home settings [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/cleaning-and-disinfecting-a-commode-pan-manually-for-care-homes-poster/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/cleaning-and-disinfecting-a-commode-pan-manually-for-care-homes-poster/) (free to download)

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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