

# IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

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To support Care Home staff, here is some information on good infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.

## 'Glove Awareness' and 'Hand Hygiene'

Between 25 February, 2020, to 31 March, 2022, a staggering 12.7 billion gloves were sent for use in the NHS and social care in England alone (Royal College of Nursing 2022)

The manufacturing of gloves contributes to environmental pollution and climate change.

Avoiding overuse or inappropriate use of PPE is a key principle that ensures this is risk-based and minimises its environmental impact.

### Gloves must be:

- Worn when exposure to blood and/or other body fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membranes is anticipated or likely
- Changed immediately after each resident and/or after completing a procedure/task even on the same resident
- Changed if a perforation or puncture is suspected
- Appropriate for use, fit for purpose and well-fitting
- Never decontaminated with alcohol handrub or liquid soap between use
- Sterile when performing aseptic technique or urinary catheterisation
- Low risk of causing sensitisation to the wearer
- Appropriate for the tasks being undertaken, taking into account the substances being handled, type and duration of contact, size and comfort of the gloves, and the task and requirement for glove robustness and sensitivity

NHS England, January 2023 *National infection prevention and control manual for England*

- Glove use is **NOT** a replacement for performing hand hygiene.
- Follow WHO's 'Your 5 moments of hand hygiene'.
- Alcohol handrubs are suitable unless hands are visibly dirty or soiled, or when caring for residents with vomiting and/or diarrhoea.
- Residents should be encouraged to wash their hands or use skin wipes after using the toilet and before eating and drinking.
- It is best practice to be 'Bare below the elbows'.
- All staff should have training on hand hygiene, e.g. annually.

### World Hand Hygiene Day 5 May 2023

[www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day](http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day)

#### Your 5 moments for hand hygiene at the point of care



### What's new

- Coming soon: New set of 30 IPC Care Home Policies.
- Save the date: IPC training event for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care staff - Monday 9th October, 2023.
- Queen's Nursing Institute - IPC Champions Meeting 9th May, 2023  
<https://qni.org.uk/news-and-events/events/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-champions-meeting/>.

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)

Call us on 01423 557340

