

## Seasonal decoration guidance for General Practice

During winter, there is an increase in cases of Norovirus, Flu and COVID-19. Any additional decorations within the General Practice can prevent effective cleaning of the environment and harbour bacteria and viruses.

Cleaning during the time decorations are out remains extremely important to prevent the spread of infection.

Below are some practical suggestions which will allow patients and staff to enjoy the atmosphere whenever celebratory events are taking place, 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.
- 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 up high are less likely to be touched and contaminated.
- Decorations can be displayed in staff offices and rest rooms following the above guidance.
- No decorations should be displayed in consulting or clinical rooms.
- Remember, if there is an outbreak of infection in the GP surgery, take down and dispose of the decorations as part of the outbreak deep clean guidelines.

### **Remember IPC in all celebrations**

Following this guidance can help minimise the risk of infection, facilitate environmental cleaning, whilst ensuring a celebratory environment for your patients and staff.