

# IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

## Issue No. 54 - October 2024



Produced by an NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team based in North Yorkshire for distribution to subscribers.

## Preparing for the winter season

The winter season results in an increased pressure across health and social care settings with more respiratory illnesses, such as flu and COVID-19, and an increase in Norovirus outbreaks. These can affect both residents and staff which result in staff shortages at a time when work load is high. The following steps can help you and your staff be more prepared to manage outbreaks of infection within your care setting.



- ✓ Encourage staff and resident vaccination uptake.
- ✓ Check your IPC policies and ensure all staff are aware of what to do in the event of an outbreak of infection.
- ✓ Do refresher training on hand hygiene and putting on and removing personal protective equipment.
- ✓ Display respiratory and cough hygiene posters, e.g. 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' and 'Respiratory and cough hygiene', available to download at [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk).
- ✓ Encourage residents to wash their hands especially before meal times.
- ✓ Identify infections early and isolate the affected residents after undertaking an individual risk assessment.
- ✓ Report suspected outbreaks to your local Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) or UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Team.
- ✓ Provide information for safer visiting during outbreaks.

### Updated 'Viral gastroenteritis outbreak management Pack:

An updated Outbreak management Pack is now available to purchase, which includes the following free to download resources:

- A new leaflet 'Supporting safer visiting in care homes during outbreaks of infection'
- Updated 'Cleaning and disinfecting a commode for Care Home settings'
- Updated 'Cleaning and disinfecting a commode pan or bed pan manually for Care Home settings'



Antibiotics  
Antivirals  
Antifungals  
Antiparasitics

EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. ACT NOW.

## World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 18-24th November 2024

Help raise awareness of the precious resource of antimicrobials by 'going blue' on WAA Day 18th November. This year's campaign message is to raise everyone's awareness and to advocate for action so that we will have antimicrobials in the future. Further information is available at [waaw-2024-campaign-guide.pdf](http://waaw-2024-campaign-guide.pdf) ([who.int](http://who.int))

### What's new:

- **QNI**—IPC Champions Network, 22nd October, 2024
- **IPC training event** for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care: 17th March, 2025. **BOOK NOW to reserve your place** at [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/)
- Coming soon: **IPC Cleaning schedule and record templates for Care Home settings**

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

