

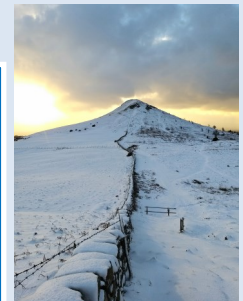
# IPC Bulletin for GP Practice Staff

## Issue No. 56 - October 2024



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

## Preparing for the winter season



The winter season results in an increased pressure across the healthcare system with more respiratory illnesses, such as flu and COVID-19, and an increase in gastrointestinal infections, e.g. Norovirus. These can affect both patients and staff which result in staff shortage at a time when work load is high. The following steps can help you be more prepared to manage the increase of infection during the winter season.

- ✓ Promote uptake of vaccinations for eligible patients and staff.
- ✓ Check your Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) policies are up-to-date and followed by staff.
- ✓ Do refresher training on hand hygiene and putting on and removing personal protective equipment (PPE).
- ✓ Ensure alcohol handrub/handwashing facilities are available for patients and staff.
- ✓ 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).
- ✓ Declutter communal spaces and clinical rooms to facilitate cleaning.
- ✓ Ensure clinical rooms have the necessary IPC supplies, e.g. PPE, spillage kits, clinical waste bin.
- ✓ Ensure the Practice 'Business continuity plan' is up-to-date.

## World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW)

18th—24th November, 2024

The theme for WAAW 2024 is "Educate. Advocate. Act now."

- Help raise awareness of the precious resource of antimicrobials by 'going blue' on World Antimicrobial Awareness Day on 18th November.
- This years campaign message is to raise everyone's awareness and to advocate for action so that we will have antimicrobials in the future. Further information: [waaw-2024-campaign-guide.pdf \(who.int\)](http://waaw-2024-campaign-guide.pdf(who.int))
- Educate patients on how to take antimicrobials correctly and appropriately, in addition to explaining preventive measures to decrease the incidence of infections.
- Check out and share key messages from [World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week \(WAAW\) and European Antibiotic Awareness Day \(EAAD\) - GOV.UK](http://World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) and European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) - GOV.UK).



Antibiotics  
Antivirals  
Antifungals  
Antiparasitics

**EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. ACT NOW.**

### What's new

- IPC training event for General Practice: 10th February, 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 General Practice**

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

