

IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

Issue No. 58- April 2025 North Yorkshire and York Edition



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



North Yorkshire and York Norovirus Alert

The number of patients with norovirus in hospitals is the highest it has ever been at this time of year and a large number of care homes in our area are closed due to norovirus. Norovirus is highly infectious requiring only a few viral particles to cause an infection. A person can spread the infection before their symptoms appear, whilst they are symptomatic and up to 72 hours after symptoms have resolved. Some people have minimal symptoms and do not report it, but they too can spread norovirus to others.

The following guidance is aimed to limit the spread of infection between hospital and care homes as both these care settings have people who are particularly vulnerable to infection.

When a resident is clinically ready for discharge from hospital

Resident was admitted to hospital during a norovirus outbreak in the care home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okay to discharge back to the care home as already exposed to the virus
Resident is not in a closed bay, but the ward does have other bays closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff can visit to assess the resident's suitability for the care home • Okay to discharge to the care home
Resident is in a closed bay, has had norovirus and is now 72 hours symptom free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If facilities allow, these residents should be taken to a non-affected area to allow staff to visit to assess suitability for discharge to the Care Home • Okay to discharge to the care home
Resident is in a closed bay and either not had norovirus or currently symptomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, should not be discharged until the bay has reopened • However, can be assessed on an individual basis and isolated in the care home for 72 hours

Admitting residents to hospital during a care home outbreak

- If possible, defer the transfer until the outbreak has been declared over
- If a resident requires hospital admission, you must inform the hospital and ambulance/transport service that the care home has an outbreak, even if the resident does not have any symptoms
- Complete a patient passport or Inter-health and social care infection control transfer Form for all transfers. It should clearly state whether the resident presents an infection risk or not. A transfer Form is available to download at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/inter-health-and-social-care-infection-control-transfer-form/

What's new

- **Coming very soon: Updated set of Care Home Policies**
- IPC training event for Care Homes: 22nd September, 2025.
www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

Call us on **01423 557340**

