

IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

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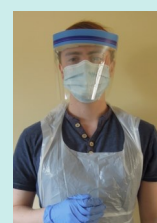


Produced by an NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team based in North Yorkshire for distribution to subscribers.

Are you prepared 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 workload is high. The following steps can help you and your staff be better prepared to manage outbreaks of infection within your care setting.

- ✓ Where eligible, encourage staff and resident vaccination uptake.
- ✓ Ensure your IPC Policies are up-to-date and all staff are aware of what to do in the event of an outbreak of infection.
- ✓ Ensure you have a good supply of gloves, aprons, facemasks and eye protection.
- ✓ Check the expiry dates of alcohol handrub and cleaning solutions to ensure there are in date.
- ✓ Do refresher training on hand hygiene and how to put on and remove PPE equipment safely.
- ✓ Encourage residents to wash their hands especially before meal times.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Report suspected outbreaks to your local Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) or UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Team.
- ✓ Provide information for safer visiting during outbreaks, available to download [‘Supporting safer visiting in care homes during outbreaks of infection’](#).
- ✓ Display signage [‘Stop the spread of infection’](#) advising visitors with infections, such as respiratory symptoms, diarrhoea and/or vomiting, or other infectious conditions, not to come enter. In exceptional circumstances, inform the Care Home staff immediately on arrival.



International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW) 19th-25th October, 2025



- International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW) is a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of infection prevention.
- This year, you are invited to Stand UPPP for infection prevention.
- UPPP stands for **‘Unite, Protect, Prevent, Prevail’** - four pillars that reflect what it takes to stop the spread of infection and create safer spaces for all.
- When we unite across roles and settings, protect our communities, prevent infections through everyday actions, and prevail over emerging threats, we build a stronger, healthier future.
- Activities are available for the week on infectionpreventionandyou.org.

What's new:

- Revised [IPC CQC assessment preparation Pack for Care Homes](#) available to pre-order by completing the [order form](#) @ £89.99.
- **IPC training event** for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care: 16th March, 2026 - Book now to reserve your place www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/
- [QICN Adult Social Care Nursing Network](#), 2nd December, 2025

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**

