

Seasonal decoration guidance for Care Homes

During winter, there is an increase in cases of Norovirus, flu and COVID-19. Any additional decorations within the Care Home 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 residents 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.
- Residents can display their own decorations in their room, including a Christmas tree.
- Remember, if there is an outbreak of infection in the home, after the outbreak is over, if the decorations cannot be appropriately cleaned and disinfected, they must be disposed of.

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 residents and staff.