Advice on safer shopping during COVID-19 booklet
STAY

Keep your distance

2m (6ft)
Guidance on the management of COVID-19 in care homes and other residential facilities

Do residents or staff have any of the following symptoms (new or worsening)?

- Fever (≥37.8°C or above)
- Cough* (with or without symptoms)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New or worsening pain or discomfort in the chest
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sudden decline in physical or mental ability without other known causes, e.g. delirium, new onset confusion, reduced alertness, reduced mobility, or dizziness.

* COVID-19 symptoms

If there are 2 or more residents or staff with symptoms occurring within 14 days, in the same area of the care home, YOU MIGHT HAVE AN OUTBREAK.

If not already done, please contact their GP(s) and the Public Health Agency Duty Room (0300 555 0119) on the same day and take the infection control measures listed below.

The Public Health Agency will:
- Identify the cause of the outbreak;
- Guide control measures;
- Work with care home staff to identify where to obtain clinical support, testing, PPE and other important information.

Outbreak and infection control measures
Refer to PHA guidance for more detailed information

Hand hygiene and personal protective equipment
- Ensure that liquid soap and disposable paper towels are available at all hand wash sinks.
- Wash hands thoroughly using liquid soap and water using the ‘launder step technique’. Do this:
  1. Before patient contact
  2. Before a clean/oral procedure
  3. After a fluid exposure risk
  4. After patient contact
  5. After contact with patient surroundings.
- Staff should wear single-use plastic aprons, gloves and surgical masks when caring for residents. Eye protection must be required under certain circumstances. For detailed advice see www.phot.nhs.uk/PPE

Cleaning and waste disposal
- Increase cleaning of the environment. Pay special attention to touch points and shared equipment e.g. hoists.
- Encourage using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes. Trim the tissue and kill germs by washing hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Provide tissues and covered-putty pots for affected residents.
- Dispose of these and personal protective equipment as clinical waste.
- Provide foot-operated bin for used tissue disposal in public areas.
- Ensure proper cleaning and replacement of oxygen/nebuliser equipment.
- Affected resident’s laundry should be treated as infected.

Reducing exposure
- Isolate or cohort affected residents until 14 days from onset of symptoms.
- Follow social distancing and shading guidance for unaffected residents.
- Admissions/transfers to the nursing home from a HCT facility should only take place following a risk assessment on a case-by-case basis in line with current guidelines.
- No day centre attendance.
- No group activities, such as therapies, games, refreshments.
- No outpatient appointments unless deemed essential.
- Staff should work in separate teams: one team caring for affected residents and the other caring for unaffected residents.
- Agency and temporary staff should shower and put on a clean uniform before moving to another facility to minimise shifts.
- Exposed staff should not attend external training.
- Staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be excluded from the home until 7 days from onset of symptoms.
- Visiting should be restricted.
- Identify hand hygiene points, with soap and water, for visitors on-entries and leaving homes. This practice must be reinforced during an outbreak.
- Nursing home should alert the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service if a resident requires transfer to a HCT facility.

Public Health Agency duty room 0300 555 0119.
If a patient is symptomatic for COVID-19 in a care home or supported living centre a swab should be taken.

Residential homes and supported living centres

Residential homes and supported living centres should arrange for the swabs to be undertaken by a district nurse or other trained healthcare worker from the local primary care provider.

Nursing homes

Nursing homes should be able to undertake swabbing on site.

Nursing homes need to have a supply of swabs, a system for testing and the appropriate forms to accompany the swabs.

Full information must be provided on the form to be completed with the patient’s record.

Nursing homes must arrange for the swabs to be tested and the results made available to them (as directed by the Trust).

Nursing homes must have the appropriate supply of swabs and be able to undertake testing on site.
Catch it, bin it, kill it poster
22/05/20 12:00
Coronavirus
Isolate yourself
Stay at home

If you or anyone in your household has a high temperature, a new and persistent cough, or change in sense of smell or taste, they are likely to have coronavirus. Everyone in your household must stay at home and not leave the house.

- **DO** Everyone in your household must stay at home
- **DO NOT** go to your GP, hospital or urgent care unless advised to by 111
- **DO** You can ring NHS 111 for advice

Calling your GP is only necessary if you have been advised to do so by 111.
COVID-19 Surveillance Reports
Please do not enter

Telephone the pharmacy immediately:

- if you have a high temperature
- new continuous cough

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) poster for pharmacies and translations