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* (of 37.8°C or above)
- Cough* (with or without sputum)
- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Vomiting

* 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

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 ‘seven step’ technique. Do this:
  1. Before patient contact
  2. Before a clean/sterile procedure
  3. After body 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 may be required under certain circumstances. For detailed advice see www.hscni.ni/HPPE

Cleaning and waste disposal

- Increase cleaning of the environment. Pay particular attention to touch points and shared equipment and toys.
- Encourage using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes. Bin the tissue and kill germs by washing hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Provide tissues and covered sputum 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/humidifier equipment.
- Affected residents’ laundry should be treated as infected.

Reducing exposure

- Isolate or cohort affected residents until 14 days from onset of symptoms.
- Follow social distancing and shielding guidance for unaffected residents.
- Admissions/transfers to the nursing home from a HSC7 facility should only take place following a risk assessment on a case-by-case basis in line with current guidelines.
- No clan centre attendance.
- No group activities, such as therapies, games, hairdressing.
- 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 complete a shift.
- 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 point, with soap and water, for visitors on entering and leaving home. This practice must be reinforced during an outbreak.
- Nursing home should alert the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service if a resident requires transfer to a HSC7 facility.

Public Health Agency duty room 0300 555 0119.
Coronavirus
Isolate your household
Stay at home

If you or anyone in your household has a high temperature or a new and continuous cough, it’s mild

- Everyone in your house needs to self-isolate
- **DO NOT** go to your GP, hospital or walk-in centre
- You can ring NHS 111 for advice. They will help you decide if you need to stay at home or go to a NHS 111 hub. Calling your GP is only necessary if you are in a vulnerable group

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COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
poster for pharmacies and translations

- high temperature
- new contact

Please do not enter

Telephone this number
Coronavirus
Isolate yourself
Stay at home

If you or anyone in your household has a high temperature or a new and continuous cough, it’s mild:

- Everyone in your house must isolate
- DO NOT go to your GP, hospital or walk-in centre
- You can ring NHS 111 for information, they will help you decide if you need to self-isolate

Calling your GP is only necessary if your symptoms worsen.
Influenza Weekly Surveillance Bulletin, Northern Ireland, 2019/20

Community Activity

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Cirulating strains this season to date:

- H1N1: 75%
- H3N2: 75%
- Influenza B: 75%

Number of hospital cases with confirmed flu (6 Mar — 22 Mar 2020): 0

To date there have been 14 hospitalisations to ICU with confirmed influenza.

Vaccine Uptake (1 October — 31 January 2020):

- 47.1% for all adults
- 75.1% for all health and social care staff
- 59.6% for all adults aged 65 and over
- 89.7% for all adults aged 65 and over with underlying health conditions
- 73.3% for all adults aged 65 and over with underlying health conditions in a care home setting
- 41.1% for all adults aged 65 and over in a care home setting
- 22.3% for all adults aged 65 and over in a care home setting and one other

Respiratory outbreaks:

- 0 cases
Guidance on vaccine handling and storage in GP practices
for babies
up to a year old

Includes information about the meningitis B vaccination - make sure you have infant paracetamol at home before your baby’s two month vaccine appointment.