

Key principles for HSC Trust staff visiting community settings



- In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, the overall intention remains to reduce footfall into any community setting.
- Recognise the full range of COVID-19 symptoms - prompt recognition of cases of COVID-19 amongst healthcare staff is essential to limit the spread.
- If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or have been notified of contact with someone who has COVID-19 through the contact tracing programme: do not attend work; self-isolate; inform your line manager; arrange a screening test.
- The latest visiting guidance issued on 6 July 2020 requires staff visiting care settings to wear a face mask, which must be applied before entering the setting and worn for the duration of the visit to the facility.

Reducing workforce movement




- Assess whether you need to undertake a face-to-face visit. Are there alternative options?
- If this is a planned visit, email (if possible) or telephone the setting in advance for advice relating to the COVID-19 status of the environment, and any other risk factors of the person you are visiting.
- If visiting more than one setting on the same day, take care to manage your diary – visit places without outbreaks first.
- Spend the least amount of time in the setting without compromising care outcomes.
- Staff who visit community settings should always be guided by the infection prevention/control requirements in place for the particular setting.

Enhancing personal protection



- Ensure your IPC training, including safe donning and doffing of PPE, is up to date.
- Adhere to IPC guidance ensuring effective hand hygiene and use of PPE: don and doff safely. Dispose of used PPE appropriately.
- Prepare appropriately before entering the setting. Decontaminate hard surfaces: touch points, eg pen, phone, diary, car door handle etc, before and after each visit.
- Bring minimal equipment with you.
- Maintain social distancing where possible in all settings and follow IPC procedures.

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