

# Infection Prevention & Control Care Provider Newsletter

## Happy Christmas, we'll see you in the new year!

**CAN** you believe that this is the last newsletter for 2023!

It has been great having the opportunity to come out and visit care homes, some to support with decontamination and some to support with general IP&C. We look forward to making many more visits in the new year.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you a (very early) healthy and Happy Christmas & New Year.

## Sustainability

IN THE realm of infection control, sustainability is a crucial facet often overlooked.

Care homes can play a vital role in adopting eco-conscious practices. Using gloves and personal protective equipment (PPE) judiciously not only safeguards against infections but also reduces unnecessary waste.

Proper disposal and recycling of these items contribute to a greener, healthier environment. By prioritising sustainability in infection control, care homes exemplify responsible stewardship while ensuring the well-being of residents and staff alike.

The ICB IPC team plans to prioritise and promote sustainability initiatives across Somerset in the coming months and we would love for care homes to share their successful sustainability practices, to help foster a collaborative approach towards a greener, safer future.



(L-R) Wessex Water colleagues with Lucy Champion and Lucy Watkins

Some of the infection control team spent an informative morning at Wessex Water's Sutton Bingham water treatment centre recently.

We received a comprehensive tour of the facility and dis-

cussed plans to collaborate with Wessex Water in the future to advocate effective hydration practices.

This partnership holds promise for enhancing health & safety measures in the community.

## Scabies—what to look out for



SCABIES outbreaks continue within care homes. If you notice persistent rashes and/or itching without other known causes, it is advisable to request that a GP/practitioner review. The [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) team](#) should be

contacted for management and of a potential outbreak. You can contact the [Somerset ICB Infection Control Team](#) for additional advice if you require it. Please see below link for more information: [Scabies resource pack](#)

## Dates for your diary

### IPC advice clinic

Our Virtual Clinic runs on Wednesday 6 December from 2pm to 4pm.

You no longer need to book an appointment and can just pop along by clicking on the MTeams invitation link. [Click here to access](#)

## Useful links

[Your 5 moments of handwashing](#)

[Covid-19 supplement to the IPC resource for adult social care](#)

[IPC manual NHS England](#)

[Adult social care guidance](#)

[Hand hygiene audit tool](#)

[PPE audit tool](#)

[IPC environmental cleanliness audit tool template](#)

## Relaunch of the patient Green Bag Scheme

NHS Somerset is re-launching the Green Bag Scheme for patients' own medicines.

It is best practice for care home residents to

take all their medicines in with them if they require admission to hospital.

The Green Bag Scheme is intended to both remind and facilitate the

patient in taking their medication with them when admitted to hospital or transferring between care settings.

Green bags are being

distributed to care providers, but additional supplies can be ordered from:

[shelley.hodder@nhs.net](mailto:shelley.hodder@nhs.net)