

Key actions: infection prevention and control and testing

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Top Ten IP&C Actions

It is the organisations responsibility to ensure that:

1. **Screening, triaging and testing** for SARS-CoV-2 should continue over the winter period.
2. Staff consistently practice **good hand hygiene** and all high touch surfaces and items are **decontaminated** multiple times every day, with systems in place to monitor adherence.
3. Staff maintain social distancing (1m+) in the workplace, when travelling to work (including avoiding car sharing) and remind staff to follow public health guidance outside of the workplace. **2 meter social distancing** must be in place for patients with respiratory infections.

4. Universal use of face masks for staff and face masks/ coverings for all patients/visitors (as a source control measure) to remain as a key IPC measure within all health and care settings over the winter period.
5. All rooms should be effectively **ventilated** every hour.
6. **Risk assessments** are reviewed regularly for pregnant, immunocompromise and BAME staff.
7. Segregate all patients with respiratory symptoms in either cars, dedicated **isolation facilities** or segregated waiting areas.
8. Rigorous implementation of all **IPC measures** in all health and care settings, based on a dynamic risk assessment based on person, place and environment, using a hierarchy of controls approach.

9. Where an unacceptable risk of transmission remains following the hierarchy of controls risk assessment, it may be necessary to consider the use of **RPE**, including FFP3 respirators, for patient care in specific situations when managing respiratory infectious agents. The risk assessment should include evaluation of the ventilation in the area, operational capacity, and prevalence of infection/new SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern in the local area.

- 10. Clinical waste** be disposed of into the correct waste stream of healthcare waste, in line with the recently updated COVID-19 waste management standard operating procedure. [COVID-19 waste management standard operating procedure](#)

- In addition to these measures, staff should continue to **test** and report their COVID status, as part of the staff LFD testing programme, to reduce the risk of asymptomatic COVID-19 transmission. Staff should also ensure that they have sufficient supplies of LFD tests ordered directly from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

References

[COVID-19: infection prevention and control \(IPC\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) key-actions-boards-and-systems-on-infection-prevention-control-testing-23-december-2020.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/532222/key-actions-boards-and-systems-on-infection-prevention-control-testing-23-december-2020.pdf)

Staff isolation guidance

[C1381-Updated-guidance-on-NHS-staff-and-student-self-isolation-return-to-work-following-COVID-contact.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://england.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/resources/documents/infection_control/2020/04/C1381-Updated-guidance-on-NHS-staff-and-student-self-isolation-return-to-work-following-COVID-contact.pdf)

[COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/532222/COVID-19-management-of-staff-and-exposed-patients-and-residents-in-health-and-social-care-settings.pdf)

NHS Board Assurance Framework

[https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/04/C1337 IPC-Board-Assurance-Framework-V1.6-June2021.pdf](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/04/C1337-IPC-Board-Assurance-Framework-V1.6-June2021.pdf)