

# Winter Readiness Toolkit for Care Homes and Residential Care

## Overview

Welcome to the Care Settings Winter Readiness Toolkit, from the UK Health Security Agency South West, hosted by South West Councils.

This toolkit is designed to help managers and staff in care homes and other residential care settings with planning and preparation for winter infections and outbreaks, and in outbreak recognition and management.

The resources are quick-reference documents, designed to be used as needed for your setting, by staff, residents, and visitors.

The toolkit complements the national guidance documents on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website for:

- [Covid-19](#)
- [other respiratory infections](#)
- [viral gastroenteritis](#)

In addition, there are a wealth of other resources and web links on the web sites of the various professional health and social care organisations.

### Winter Readiness & Prevention – Keeping Infections out

Are you ready for winter? Find out with these self-assessment checklists for flu/Covid-19 and gastroenteritis:

- [Winter Preparedness Checklist for COVID-19 and Influenza](#)
- [UKHSASW care home planning checklist for norovirus season](#)

### Posters

- [“Catch it, Bin it, Kill it” poster](#)
- [Hand hygiene poster e-bug](#)
- [Link to Campaign Resource Centre](#)

### **Are you considering admitting a resident with an infection?**

The risk assessment guide will help you to determine how to manage this

[Risk Assessment Guide for care homes admitting residents with infections](#)

**More details on how to prevent Acute Respiratory Infections are available in UKHSA SW's Information Card 1:**

- [Information Card 1: Prevention of Acute Respiratory Infections](#)

**Vaccination**

- [Flu immunisation for social care staff](#)
- [Flu and Flu Vaccination 2022/23: A Toolkit for Care Homes \(South West\)](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy resources](#)



**Care Home Outbreak Pack – Infection Prevention & Control**

- [An outbreak information pack for care homes](#)

**Acute Respiratory Infections**

UKHSA SW have developed a set of checklists of actions that care settings are advised to undertake when faced with single cases (in residents or staff) of Flu or COVID-19 and for outbreaks of Flu, COVID-19 or any unidentified acute respiratory infection. This should be a key reference document that is familiar to all senior carers and managers.

[Checklist of Actions for Acute Respiratory Infections in Care Settings](#)

UKHSA SW have also developed a set of Information Cards to explain the rationale behind the recommendations in the checklists and includes how to risk assess new admissions and visiting in periods of outbreak:

- [Information Card 1: Prevention of Acute Respiratory Infections](#)
- [Information Card 2 COVID-19 or Influenza single cases and assessing linkage to a setting](#)
- [Information Card 3: Outbreak Management of Acute Respiratory Infections \(ARIs-including COVID-19 and Influenza\)](#)
- [Information Card 4: Risk assessment of admissions into Adult Residential care settings](#)
- [Information Card 5: Risk assessment of visiting during outbreaks](#)

**Viral Gastroenteritis**

- [Action Card for diarrhoea and vomiting outbreaks](#)
- [Checklist \(ICP\) Diarrhoea and Vomiting Outbreaks Care Homes](#)
- [Norovirus information sheet](#)
- [“Stop norovirus spreading this winter” leaflet](#)

## **New admissions in the context of infections**

If you are considering admitting a resident with an infection or are considering an admission of a new resident whilst in a period of outbreak, the following documents may assist you in the risk assessment:

- [Risk Assessment Guide for care homes admitting residents with infections](#)
- [Information Card 4: Risk assessment of admissions into Adult Residential care settings](#)

## **When and how to contact the UKHSA Health Protection Team**

Tel: 0300 303 8162 (lines open 24/7)

Email (monitored only during standard working hours): [swhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:swhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk) (do not include patient identifiable information)

You may wish to display the following posters in your care setting

- [General Poster – When and How to Contact the HPT](#)
- [Acute Respiratory Outbreaks Poster – When and How to Contact the HPT](#)

## **How to contact the ICB Infection Prevention and Control Team**

Email: [somicb.infectionpreventioncontrolteam@nhs.net](mailto:somicb.infectionpreventioncontrolteam@nhs.net)

### **Other Useful Guidance**

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult social care guidance – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care](#)
- [National infection prevention and control manual \(NIPCM\) for England](#)
- Every Action Counts toolkit has also been adapted to support adult social care providers to use the resources effectively. The [social care suite](#) is available now.
- [Guidance for employers and businesses](#)