



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# C19: How to Work Safely

## HTWS Guidance Update

### Autumn/ Winter 2021

UKHSA HTWS Development Group

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**Please note this presentation is not a formal statement of UKHSA, DHSC or PHE policy. Please refer to Coronavirus (COVID-19): adult social care guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

# Scope of HTWS guidance - *provisional*

- This guidance outlines the infection prevention and control (IPC) principles required for care workers to work safely during this stage of the COVID-19 pandemic and to support quality of life and care within adult social care settings in England.
- It builds on previous How to Work Safely guidance for care homes and domiciliary care, adopting learning from COVID-19, applying evidence and best practice based on consensus opinion of stakeholders including guidance users and IPC specialists who work in community settings.
- The guidance recognises the importance of vaccination against flu and COVID (which includes the booster dose) against symptomatic infection in those at highest risk from developing severe COVID-19 and the continued risk of emergent variants of respiratory viruses including COVID-19.

# **Content - *provisional***

- What has changed
- What has stayed the same
- Who this guidance is for (responsibilities)
- Principles of IPC during COVID-19
- Hierarchy of controls
- Chain of infection
- **Standard infection control principles (icon for each)**

## **Standard infection control principles**

- 1. Resident Placement/Assessment for infection risk
- 2. Hand Hygiene
- 3. Respiratory and Cough Hygiene
- 4. Personal Protective Equipment
- 5. Safe Management of Care Equipment
- 6. Safe Management of Care Environment
- Decontamination/domestic cleaning
- 7. Safe Management of Linen
- 8. Safe Management of Blood and Body Fluid Spillage
- 9. Safe Disposal of Waste
- 10. Occupational Safety: Prevention and Exposure Management (including sharps)
- 11. Outbreak management – key points (cohorting principles)

# Updated timeline - 24 Nov 2021

- **w/c 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.** HTWS evaluation activity concluded. Key findings shared with stakeholders. **Concluded**
- **w/c 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.** Stakeholders offered 1 week to provide feedback based on shared findings. **Concluded**
- **15<sup>th</sup> Nov – 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.** Update guidance based on feedback/ evidence. **In progress**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.** Scope of planned work and summary of activity shared with stakeholders. **In progress**
- **8<sup>th</sup> Dec.** *Decision re 1 primary or 2 bespoke.* Updated guidance shared with stakeholders for final comment – *response deadline 15/12*
- **16<sup>th</sup> Dec.** Stakeholder feedback considered & supplementary updates agreed/ captured.
- **w/c 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.** Updated guidance enters ‘triple lock’ clearance process (date confirmed with parliamentary team)
- **20<sup>th</sup> Jan.** Target publication date



Ask  
Questions!