

Homes must contact the Public Health England Duty desk – 0113 3860300 (Monday to Friday 0900-1700hrs) where 2 or more cases of diarrhoea and /or vomiting (D&V) have occurred (Bristol Stool Chart grading 5-7) and it is unusual to the residents or staff member's normal bowel action. For Out of Hours contact please call 0114 3049843.

Daily Checklist

- Outbreak/home closed poster should be displayed at the entrance and information leaflets provided
- Hand wash sinks must be stocked with non-refillable liquid soap and disposable paper towels (alcohol gel is ineffective against D&V)
- Essential visiting only
- Record all affected residents/ staff on the log sheet
- Organise staff rotas to minimise contamination of unaffected areas (remember cohort nursing guidance and safe food service)
- PPE must be available and staff must wear and dispose of as per Risk Assessment

Housekeeping Checks

- The home environment must be thoroughly cleaned twice daily using hot water and detergent
- Areas accessed by symptomatic residents must be cleaned as above and following this all hard surfaces, (including floors) and toilet areas must be cleaned with a hypochlorite solution 1,000 parts per million (i.e. Milton, Bleach or a combined detergent /bleach product)
- Toilets must be cleaned after every use with soap and water or a detergent wipe and then cleaned with a hypochlorite solution
- Spillages must be dealt with promptly and safely and staff must wear the appropriate PPE
- Soiled carpets must be cleaned with a carpet shampooer/steam cleaner (if available)
- Soluble bags must be used for infected linen
- Sluice rooms/laundry areas must be well managed (doors must be kept closed)
- Infectious waste stream must be available (orange bag)
- Bins must be foot operated and waste managed appropriately (internally and externally)

Staff Reminders

- Staff should change on the premises, a clean uniform must be worn each day, they must comply with Department of Health "Bare Below the Elbows" (BBE) guidance
- PPE risk assessment should be undertaken and worn as appropriate for the task
- Staff must not eat or drink with residents during the outbreak
- Symptomatic staff must remain at home and contact the line manager daily to provide an update
- Staff can return to work once they have been 48hr symptom free

Resident Reminders (affected by D&V)

- Isolate the resident until 48 hrs symptom free (doors must be kept closed: develop a risk assessment if unable to comply)
- Record bowel motions (using Bristol Stool Chart guide) obtain a stool specimen (must be type 5-7), document result
- Must have own en-suite facility/dedicated commode
- Provide hand hygiene wipes/offer regular opportunities to wash hands
- Signs and symptoms must be reviewed twice daily (blood glucose levels in diabetic residents must be monitored closely)
- Fluid balance monitoring must be commenced at onset of symptoms (diet can be provided as tolerated)
- Remove exposed sweets/fruits/juices from the open environment

If the resident becomes very unwell or their signs and symptoms deteriorate immediately contact their GP or seek the support of the Telemedicine Service via your Immedicare laptop.

Keeping others informed

- Update family members and all visiting healthcare professionals daily
- Defer non-urgent appointments and visits, e.g. Out-patients, hairdresser, handyman and maintenance staff.

All visitors must be encouraged to use hand washing facilities, wear PPE and take all precautions to prevent the spread of infection.



Hospital admissions

If a resident has to be admitted into hospital/A&E from the home when the outbreak has already started they can be discharged back to the home even though the outbreak may be still on-going (this is because they have been exposed to the infection already).

Remember to alert all agencies and accepting health care providers of the current outbreak situation at the care home. Please forward an Infection Risk Assessment transfer form with the resident upon departure from the care home.

The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille. Please call 01274 438865.