

Adult Social Care Infection Prevention & Control guidance from February 2024

On 1st February 2024, the government published new guidance which replaces the 'COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resources for adult social care'.

The new guidance is found here: [Infection prevention and control \(IPC\) in adult social care: acute respiratory infection \(ARI\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-in-adult-social-care-acute-respiratory-infection-ari)

This guidance provides information on infection prevention and control (IPC) measures for acute respiratory infections (ARI), including COVID-19. It applies to adult social care providers, managers of adult social care services and adult social care staff in England.

It is consistent with the approach of managing COVID-19 increasingly in line with other ARIs, made possible by high vaccination coverage, high immunity amongst the population, and increased access to COVID-19 treatments.

This document should be read alongside the [Infection prevention and control: resource for adult social care](#) guidance (**please note this guidance is in the process of being updated**) which contains general infection prevention and control (IPC) principles to be used in combination with advice and guidance on managing specific infections. It is for those responsible for setting and maintaining standards of IPC within adult social care in England.

Current PPE guidance for quick reference can be found within [PPE requirements when caring for a person with suspected or confirmed acute respiratory infection \(ARI\)](#)

NHS commissioned services should refer also to the [NHS England National infection prevention and control manual \(NIPCM\) for England](#).

The 'COVID-19 testing: terms and conditions' is now published on the [COVID-19: testing in the workplace and eligible high-risk settings](#) page.

The 'COVID-19 self-test for staff, service users and visitors in adult social care settings: privacy notice' is now published on the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing: privacy information](#) page.

Local recommendations for resilience

Please continue to follow the local recommendations below within all settings:

1. Ensure business continuity plans are reviewed regularly
2. Continue to risk assess mask wearing in settings (should be worn when caring for anyone with suspected or confirmed acute respiratory infection)
3. Maintain a low symptom threshold to reduce transmission of respiratory viruses
4. Continue to report cases to UKHSA
5. Utilise testing for admission into settings, and testing within settings where appropriate, to support management of cases of respiratory viruses
6. Ensure you maintain a stock of tests and check for expiration dates

For outbreak management advice/support

For outbreak management advice/support, please use the webform or call Yorkshire and Humber HPT (0113 386 0300 in or out of hours). This includes if experiencing a significant spike in cases or other outbreak issues.

- Webform [Webform Response Cell Yorkshire & Humber \(yhphnetwork.co.uk\)](http://yhphnetwork.co.uk)

In the instance of any events that may impact service delivery, please contact SocialServices.Contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk

For specialist Infection Prevention Control (IPC) support, please call 01423 557340 or email infectionprevention.control@nhs.net