



07 April 2020

Dear Care Home Manager,

This letter provides information on how to respond to a suspected outbreak of Covid-19 within the care home.

Please notify PHE Yorkshire and Humber Health Protection Team on 0113 386 0300 if you have 2 or more cases (residents or staff) of suspected or confirmed Covid-19 within 14 days of one another.

Please note case definitions for symptomatic cases are: a new continuous cough **or** fever with a temperature $\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ **or** new onset of influenza-like illness **or** worsening shortness of breath. Common causes of fever in the elderly, such as urinary tract infections (UTIs) should be ruled out.

If required, please seek advice from your local authority adult and social care team for operational, staffing, and mutual aid support as needed.

For cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 in care home settings, please undertake infection control and isolation procedures in the guidance below (admission and care of residents during Covid-19 incident in a care home).

Admission and care of residents during Covid-19 incident in a care home:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877797/covid-19-care-homes-guidance.pdf

Please note that staff members caring for suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 **will** need to ensure they use appropriate PPE as per national guidance. Affected residents should be cared for in isolation as per the guidance above.

The following guidance will also be useful in helping your response to a possible Covid-19 outbreak in your care home:

Cleaning in non-healthcare settings guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Stay at home guidance (for staff and visitors):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

For residents who require medical attention, please phone and discuss with their GP or NHS 111. In an emergency call 999, informing them and the receiving hospital if there is an outbreak in the home.

The care home must immediately inform PHE Yorkshire and Humber Health Protection Team on 0113 386 0300 if there is a large rise in the number of symptomatic cases or there is a large increase in number of unexpected deaths within the home.

Thank you.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Gent".

Dr Mike Gent
Deputy Director Health Protection
Public Health England Yorkshire and the Humber