

Information for Care Homes in Relation to Covid 19

As we learn to live safely with COVID-19, there are actions we can all take to help reduce the risk of catching COVID-19 and passing it on to others. We would like to thank you for working with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and your local authority throughout the pandemic to implement control measures to limit spread. This email provides an update on advice and signposting to guidance for when a care home experiences cases of Covid-19. The Yorkshire & Humber Health Protection Team (HPT) is part of UKHSA and works with Local Authorities to support care homes in regard to Health Protection matters.

When and How to inform the Local Authority

Contact the Bradford Council Infection Prevention team for advice and guidance. For general advice and guidance please use the email address below.

HPTBradford@bradford.gov.uk

To discuss a new or on-going outbreak please contact a member of the Infection Prevention team:

Michael Horsley

michael.horsley@bradford.gov.uk

mobile: 07582 102 117

Darren Fletcher

Darren.fletcher@bradford.gov.uk

mobile: 07582 102163

Jas Sandhu

jasbinder.sandhu@bradford.gov.uk

mobile 07970 833276

When and How to Notify Cases of Covid-19 to the Health Protection Team

It is **not** necessary to notify the Health Protection Team of:

- A single case of Covid-19
- Unlinked cases of Covid-19; it is acceptable for care home managers to determine whether cases are linked (see Appendix A for further information on related cases)

If you need to notify the Health Protection Team

- Please use the [webform](#) where possible to notify two or more linked cases of Covid-19 (see Appendix B for other methods of accessing the webform)
- If you are unable to use the webform, the HPT can be contacted by telephone on 0113 3860300. During times of high demand, you may be redirected to the webform to notify.

What to Expect when a Notification has been sent to the Health Protection Team

Enquiries related to an outbreak or incident requiring urgent public health advice will be prioritised; Please be assured that your enquiry will be reviewed and triaged once received, you will then either receive an email or a call from the Health Protection Team. The team will advise and risk assess according to the current guidance, for useful links see Appendix C.

Thank you.

Regards

UK Health Security Agency

Yorkshire and Humber Health Protection Team

Appendix A - Unrelated Cases

Unrelated Cases within a care home are defined as: at least one confirmed case of COVID-19 (LFD or PCR) AND one or more cases which meet the clinical case definition of COVID-19 among individuals (residents or staff) with onset/test dates within 14 days of each other, ***but with no confirmed contact within the care home.*** Unrelated cases can be managed as per standard protocols for single cases and there is no need to inform the Health Protection Team.

Examples of 2 or more unrelated cases (list not exhaustive):

- Two cases of Covid in residents/staff in the care home diagnosed more than 14 days apart

- One case of Covid in a resident in the care home followed within 14 days by a case in a staff member who was tested pre-shift and had not worked in the home or looked after the affected resident in the previous 14 days
- Two or more Covid cases in staff members within 14 days of each other who had worked in discrete units/floors/shifts with no crossovers and no links between residents cared for
- Two or more Covid cases within 14 days in residents in separate/discrete units/floors/sections of the care home with no links between them and no crossover amongst staff looking after them
- Covid in a resident recently discharged from hospital (into a care home which already had a resident with Covid) who can be safely isolated in their room and looked after by cohorted staff
- Covid in two or more residents recently discharged from hospital (into a care home without any Covid cases) who can be safely isolated in their rooms and looked after by cohorted staff

Appendix B - Alternative ways of accessing the Webform to notify the Health Protection Team

- Click on this link: [webform](#)

Or

- Open a web browser, one example would be Google Chrome
- Type 'coronavirus response cell Yorkshire' into the search bar
- Open the site with the address www.yhphnetwork.co.uk

Or

- Type this text into the browser: <https://www.yhphnetwork.co.uk/links-and-resources/yh-health-protection-team/yorkshire-humber-hpt-response-cell/>

Appendix C - Covid Guidance Links

[Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult social care services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Hospital discharge and community support guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[PPE portal: how to order COVID-19 personal protective equipment \(PPE\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Personal protective equipment \(PPE\): local contacts for accessing free PPE - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[COVID-19: personal protective equipment use for aerosol generating procedures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Health and Care Act 2022: adult social care provider information provisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[COVID-19: information and advice for health and care professionals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Search - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)