Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) including COVID-19 outbreak management process

Hertfordshire

Setting suspects an Acute Respiratory infection (ARI) outbreak (COVID-19,Flu or other acute respiratory infection)

An ARI outbreak consists of 2 or more positive or clinically suspected linked cases of ARI, in the setting within a 5-day period.

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The setting should undertake a risk assessment as soon as possible and

Implement proportionate outbreak control measures in line with guidance.

Infection prevention and control (IPC) in adult social care: acute respiratory infection (ARI) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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Report the outbreak

Complete the UKHSA web – based Care OBRA Tool via https://forms.ukhsa.gov.uk/ReportAnOutbreak **using your Unique Organisation Number (UON).**

Any updates to an ongoing outbreak should be emailed directly to eastofenglandHPT@ukhsa.gov.uk

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UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) HPT will provide relevant IPC advice and guidance and organise PCR testing for up to 5 symptomatic residents (and flu antivirals where indicated) via Commisceo (commissioned provider). Any symptomatic residents eligible for COVID-19 treatments should also be tested as soon as possible using LFD test obtained for this purpose, even if they are also tested by PCR.

Further support is available from UKHSA where there are specific issues of concern for example:

greater severity of illness with more deaths or hospitalisations than expected, rapidly increasing cases despite control measures, a suspected outbreak of 2 ARI's (for example Flu alongside COVID-19). Providers should seek advice from the relevant Local Authority contact if there are operational issues such as staffing shortages or concerns about safety.

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Outbreak measures can be lifted 5 days after the onset of symptoms in the most recent symptomatic resident. All residents should be monitored for up to a further 5 days after this to ensure they can access appropriate treatments where necessary.

Should you require any further advice or support you can email HCC Public Health Team

Email: hertshpt.spoc@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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**Once the outbreak is declared over please notify HCC Public Health Team
Email: hertshpt.spoc@hertfordshire.gov.uk**

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