

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



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.



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](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-in-adult-social-care-acute-respiratory-infection-ari)
(www.gov.uk)



Report an acute respiratory infection outbreak

Complete the UKHSA web – based tool via <https://forms.ukhsa.gov.uk/ReportAnOutbreak>

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



UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) HPT will provide relevant IPC advice and guidance and advise on the use of PCR to test up to 5 linked symptomatic residents with most recent symptom onset. 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. The UKHSA HPT will also be able to advise if flu antivirals are recommended.

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.



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



Once the outbreak is declared over please notify HCC Public Health Team

Email: hertshpt.spoc@hertfordshire.gov.uk