

# Care Home COVID-19 outbreak management process -Effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023



## Setting suspects an outbreak of COVID-19

An outbreak consists of 2 or more positive or clinically suspected linked cases of COVID-19, within the same setting within a 14-day period. This means the cases are linked to each other and transmission within the care setting is likely to have occurred.



The setting should undertake a risk assessment as soon as possible to determine if there is an outbreak and if control measures are needed. You are not required to wait for advice from the HPT (or other relevant local partner) if you feel you are able to initiate the risk assessment independently.

To inform the risk assessment, the first 5 linked symptomatic residents should be tested using LFD tests irrespective of their eligibility for treatments. This is to determine if there are 2 or more linked cases of COVID-19 or another respiratory infection. If the risk assessment determines that there are 2 or more linked positive cases of COVID-19 within the same setting within a 14-day period proportionate outbreak management measures should be implemented in line with guidance [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-supplement-to-the-infection-prevention-and-control-resource-for-adult-social-care) ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))



Report the outbreak to UKHSA East Of England Health Protection Team

Email: [eastofenglandhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:eastofenglandhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk)

**Important** From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 please copy in the HCC Public Health Team into your email

[hertshpt.spoc@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hertshpt.spoc@hertfordshire.gov.uk)



UKHSA EOE HPT will provide relevant IPC advice and guidance with further support available where there are specific issues of concern for example: greater severity of presentation in residents, more deaths or hospitalisations than expected, rapidly increasing cases despite control measures, operational issues, an outbreak of another infection such as Flu in addition to COVID-19, a high proportion of residents offered or accessed COVID-19 treatments during the outbreak



You do not need to perform any further LFD tests and the outbreak measures can be lifted 5 days after the last suspected or confirmed case. This is from the day of the last positive test, or the day the last resident became unwell, whichever is latest. 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](mailto:hertshpt.spoc@hertfordshire.gov.uk)



Once the outbreak is over please notify HCC Public Health Team

Email: [hertshpt.spoc@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hertshpt.spoc@hertfordshire.gov.uk)