

Is it true that people are infectious during the incubation period?

There have been case reports that suggest possible infectivity prior to the onset of symptoms, in some individuals before the onset of symptoms. A Further study is required to determine the frequency, importance and impact of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic infection, in terms of transmission risks

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/transmission-characteristics-and-principles-of-infection-prevention-and-control>

Why are you required to label and date laundry?

Linen must be laundered in line with local policy for infectious linen. All linen bags must be stored in a designated safe lockable area whilst awaiting laundering. Attention must be given to placing the linen in a red soluble bag and then placing in an impermeable or nylon polyester bag, the outer bag must state "infectious linen". If linen is sent to an off-site laundry, the laundry should be made aware of its nature, and written guidelines should be agreed and followed regarding its transportation and handling – This would include details of labelling the linen

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/527545/Social_care.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880274/Admission_and_Care_of_Residents_during_COVID-19_Incident_in_a_Care_Home.pdf

Can you explain the difference between a surgical mask and a fluid resistant mask please?

Surgical masks – The aim of wearing a face mask is to protect your mouth and nose from resident's respiratory secretions. Wearing a face mask also protect residents by minimising the risk of transmitting infection from yourself (via secretions or droplets from your mouth, nose and lungs) to residents when you are caring for them.

Fluid repellent surgical masks (FRSM) – protect you from respiratory droplets produced by residents (e.g. when they cough or sneeze), by providing a barrier to prevent these reaching your mouth and nose. They also protect residents from you and fellow care workers as per surgical masks above

This is why the new "" How to work safety in a care home guidance" recommends that FRSM'S are worn whilst providing personal care which requires you to be in direct contact with the resident (s) (e.g. touching)or within 2 metres of a resident who is coughing"

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880094/PHE_11651_COVID-19_How_to_work_safely_in_care_homes.pdf

Please can we be clear; even if the home has no covid-19 are we still needing to wear full PPE throughout the home"

Guidance is changing continually so always make sure that you are up to date here. At the moment we are following the “How to work safely in a care home guidance” which states that” As there is sustained transmission of COVID-19 we recommend use of PPE in general, however, in Circumstances where no resident has symptoms of fever or cough and where no staff member or visitor has experienced these symptoms in the preceding 14 days, then PPE may not be required. Your organisation will inform you if this applies and will perform daily risk assessment using the flowchart in the guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880094/PHE_11651_COVID-19_How_to_work_safely_in_care_homes.pdf