

## Outbreak - Actions checklist for care settings



Report all new outbreaks of infectious disease including COVID-19 to UKHSA East of England Health Protection Team – Tel: [0300 303 8537](tel:03003038537) or email [eastofenglandhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:eastofenglandhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk)

**An outbreak is defined as 2 or more linked cases of the same suspected / confirmed) infection occurring around the same time and associated with the service or location**

Actions	Tick
1. Once an outbreak has been identified, care providers should review their outbreak management plan to ensure the control measures are appropriate for the outbreak, those at risk and the management of the environment	
2. Staff must follow professional advice from UKHSA Health Protection Team to control the outbreak and support those infected , ensuring any recommended specimens are collected as directed and without delay	
3. Staff should receive information regarding the outbreak, including signs and symptoms of infection, who is affected and the necessary controls	
4. Increased monitoring of infection control practices should be implemented to ensure high standards of infection control practice are being maintained to bring the outbreak under control	
5. Enhanced monitoring of signs / symptoms of all individuals should be implemented to quickly identify potential spread	
6. Any suspected or confirmed cases should be encouraged to isolate for the duration of their infectious period and referred for clinical review as appropriate	
7. Consider having a small number of staff dedicated to support individuals during their infectious period	
8. Staff should be alert to any deterioration in the persons condition and refer for clinical advice where appropriate	
9. Ensure staff are wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)	
10. Reinforce hand hygiene using soap and warm water. Alcohol hand rub is not effective against Norovirus or Clostridioides difficile	
11. Ensure sufficient stock of PPE, hand hygiene products, paper towels, tissues, and toilet tissues are available and conveniently located	
12. Cleaning arrangements should be reviewed and amended as necessary, considering the efficacy of the products used and frequency . Isolation / cohort areas must be decontaminated using <b>either</b> : a combined detergent / disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 ppm available chlorine <b>or</b> a general- purpose neutral detergent in warm water followed by solution of 1,000ppm av.cl. Manufacturer guidance for dilution and recommended product contact time must be followed for all cleaning/ disinfection solutions. Increase frequency of cleaning of frequent touched surfaces – door/toilet handles, handrails, table tops and areas where there may be higher environmental contamination e.g toilets and commodes. Arrange for deep clean when isolation precautions are discontinued	
13. Reusable non- invasive care equipment should be dedicated to isolation/ cohort areas and decontaminated after each use. Use single use items if possible. An increased frequency of decontamination should be considered for reusable non invasive care equipment when used in isolation / cohort areas	
14. Waste management procedures should be reviewed – handle waste safely and segregate via infectious waste stream for infectious cases	

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15.	Staff should be excluded from work if experiencing signs or symptoms of infection. Staffing requirements should be reviewed including contingency planning	
16.	Consider whether arrangements for visits in and out of the setting need to be modified following a risk assessment and whether it is appropriate to admit new people to the service during the outbreak.	
17.	Consider the use of shared spaces, and whether distancing measures need to be increased	
18.	Restrict movement of staff providing direct care to avoid seeding of outbreaks between different settings	
19.	Maximise ventilation in the setting by opening windows and doors	
20.	Review the outbreak to identify areas of outbreak management which went well, what was challenging and what has been learnt to inform future practice. Review the outbreak management plan in light of this learning	

### Resources

[COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Infection prevention and control: resource for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[NHS England » National infection prevention and control manual \(NIPCM\) for England](#)

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