

How to work safely in Care Homes during COVID-19

	<p>Identifying suspected cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider COVID-19 infection in a resident with any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New continuous cough, different to usual High temperature ($\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$) (please refer to PHE thermometer guidance). Loss of/ change in smell or taste In older people, symptoms can be atypical e.g. confusion, drowsiness and/or diarrhoea. Be alert to any changes and contact Telemedicine and/or GP at the earliest opportunity.
	<p>Managing suspected cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents should be isolated in a single bedroom with their own bathroom for 14 days with the door shut (ensuring good ventilation). If unable to isolate the resident in their own room or without their own bathroom this should be documented. Consider cohorting symptomatic residents together in multi-occupancy rooms. Residents with suspected COVID-19 should only be cohorted with other residents with suspected COVID-19 NOT residents not with confirmed COVID-19. Where possible, staff who have had confirmed COVID-19 and recovered should care for COVID-19 patients Use standard operating procedures for isolating residents who 'wander' for wellbeing. Behavioural interventions may be employed but physical restraint should not be used.
	<p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE is only effective when combined with: good hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and avoiding touching your face with your hands, and follow standard infection prevention and control precautions PPE should be used at all times by everyone who comes in to direct contact or within two metres of a resident. You should use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposable apron and Disposable gloves (one patient only) Fluid repellent surgical mask (can be used continuously until you take a break) Eye protection where there is a risk of 'splashing' e.g. spitting, vomiting, eye protection can be used continuously while providing care, until you need to take a break from duties. Eye protection must be decontaminated between uses. Discard used PPE into clinical waste and dispose as per local policy Check your stocks and supply chain for PPE. If you have less than 3-days PPE supply and have exhausted all other options, contact the Council at PPRequests@croydon.gov.uk For emergency PPE contact: National Supply Disruption line Tel: 0800 915 9954. Email: supplydisruptionservice@nhsbsa.nhs.uk
	<p>Infection, Prevention and Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase frequency of general cleaning paying particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High touch surfaces (door handles, light switches) and equipment used between residents For further advice please contact covid19@croydon.gov.uk
	<p>Who to notify in case of an outbreak?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you think your care home has a new coronavirus outbreak, one or more suspected cases, please contact the London Coronavirus Response Cell on 0300 303 0450 immediately or email lrcrc@phe.gov.uk or phe.lrcrc@nhs.net. They will test residents and staff and provide infection control support.
	<p>Testing for residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once you inform LCRC, they will send test kits and provide infection control support for all residents (with or without symptoms) Online portal for care homes to arrange Covid-19 testing – available for all symptomatic and asymptomatic care home staff and residents in England - https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-portal-for-care-homes-to-arrange-coronavirus-testing. Residents who are returning from hospital will be tested prior to discharge <p>Testing for staff and members of their household with symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tests can be booked via the Government online portal - www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested A hospital appointment can also be booked at Croydon University Hospital. For further information please email providertesting@croydon.gov.uk CUH offer walk in testing for care home staff Please note testing is most effective within 3 days of symptoms developing
	<p>Advanced Care Plans (ACPs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review ACPs routinely as a matter of urgency. This should include discussions about how COVID-19 may cause residents to become critically unwell, and a clear decision about whether hospital admission would be considered in this circumstance. ACPs should be easily accessible by healthcare professionals in an emergency situation. For palliative care advice contact St Christopher's.
	<p>Verification and notification of Death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of an expected death, the care home should contact the Telemedicine service for the process of verification (unless they have a member of staff who has the relevant competence). For homes who do not have the Telemedicine service, please follow your usual process. Report any deaths to PHE immediately.
	<p>Complete Local reporting daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update local reporting daily and report any concerns to enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk
	<p>Review visitor policy and other internal policies impacted by COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review visitor policy as per guidance. Care homes should be closed to visitors except in exceptional circumstances such as End of Life visits.

For further information and guidance please refer the COVID-19 Care Home webpage: at: <http://valuecroydon.com/support-for-care-homes-during-covid-2-2>