



Infection Prevention Team Newsletter February 2024

Winter Infections increasing

Outbreaks of winter infections, including Covid-19 and norovirus but particularly flu which has affected several nursing and residential homes over the past two weeks. There is a useful guide to managing Acute Respiratory Infections attached. You may find it useful to look at this and think about collating the information required now in readiness should an outbreak occur. Please also remember to check you have sufficient LFD tests and PPE available and that all your stock is 'in date'.

The following links may also be useful:

[UKHSA ARI Guidance 31 Jan 2024](#)

[UKHSA ARI PPE chart](#)

[NHS Conditions- Flu](#)

[NHS Conditions- Norovirus](#)

[NHS England IPC Manual](#)

Measles

A very unpleasant infection with potentially serious (sometimes fatal) consequences which spreads very rapidly in communities with low uptake of MMR vaccines.

In health and regulated care settings, exposure to measles can have serious consequences in terms of business continuity as well as the health concerns, including the requirement for all unvaccinated contacts of a case to isolate at home for 21 days.

If you are unsure whether you, your staff or your families have had their two doses of MMR vaccine, please take the opportunity to check/ ask them to check with your/ their GP surgery NOW. Some older staff and residents may have had separate vaccines (used in the late 1960s/ 1970s) or other evidence of immunity (e.g. may have had a blood test to show their immunity) but their GP should have a record of this too.

The MMR vaccine is safe and effective at preventing three unpleasant and potentially serious infections -Measles, Mumps and Rubella ('German Measles') and provided free by the NHS via GPs.

Here is a link to the NHS Measles information <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Back to basics PPE campaign

Post pandemic, we have noticed that there is quite a lot of confusion about what PPE to use and when. The following links may be useful:

[IPS animation link](#)

[RCN Glove Awareness campaign](#)

Please do remember that the Westmorland and Furness Council [IPC e-learning](#) is available to all too.

Also download: [UKHSA NW ARI CARE HOME RESOURCE PACK 2023 final](#)

Please do continue to report incidents and outbreaks to the IPC team where we can offer outbreak support. Report via email to IPC@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk