This Current Awareness Bulletin is produced by the Yeovil Academy Library to provide staff with a range of infection control-related resources.

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Policies

NHS England

Supporting infection prevention and control through technology
Published on: 9 September 2020
Last modified on: 9 September 2020

GOV.UK

COVID-19: infection prevention and control (IPC)
  ○ Updated: 20 October 2020
Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance
Find guidance about coronavirus (COVID-19) for health and social care settings, other non-clinical settings, and for the general public.
  o Updated: 13 August 2020

Sewage signals early warning of coronavirus outbreaks
Government-led programme is providing an early warning of coronavirus outbreaks by monitoring sewage and sharing data with NHS Test & Trace
  o Updated: 23 October 2020

COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection
Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.
  o Updated: 23 October 2020

COVID-19: supervised toothbrushing programmes
Infection control guidance for supervised toothbrushing programmes in early years and school settings
  o Updated: 13 August 2020

COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home
This guidance covers the cleaning of environments outside the home.
  o Updated: 16 October 2020

COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings
Guidance on the management of staff, patients and residents who have been exposed to COVID-19.
  o Updated: 28 September 2020

COVID-19: background information
Information on COVID-19 including epidemiology, virology and clinical features.
  o Updated: 2 November 2020

COVID-19: investigation and initial clinical management of possible cases
Information on case definitions, and the initial assessment and investigation of possible cases of COVID-19 infection.
  o Updated: 2 October 2020

COVID-19: guidance for stepdown of infection control precautions within hospitals and discharging COVID-19 patients from hospital to home settings
Advice on appropriate infection prevention and control (IPC) precautions for stepdown in hospital or discharge to home or residential settings.
  o Updated: 30 July 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19): support for care homes
Sets out the support package to keep care homes safe during the coronavirus pandemic.
  o Updated: 9 July 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing: privacy information
Privacy notice for NHS Test and Trace virus testing for all users of the service.
  o Updated: 28 October 2020
How tests and testing kits for coronavirus (COVID-19) work
The different types of tests and testing kits for COVID-19, and the specifications for manufacturers.
  o Updated: 15 October 2020

Preventing and controlling outbreaks of COVID-19 in prisons and places of detention
Information for prisons and other prescribed places of detention on coronavirus (COVID-19).
  o Updated: 4 August 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19): personal protective equipment (PPE) hub
Guidance about coronavirus (COVID-19) personal protective equipment (PPE).
  o Updated: 31 July 2020

Legionnaires' disease: national surveillance scheme
Guidance on the control and prevention of Legionnaires' disease in England, including disease surveillance
and reporting forms.
  o Updated: 2 June 2020

COVID-19: how to work safely in care homes
Guidance for those working in care homes providing information on how to work safely during this period
of sustained transmission of COVID-19.
  o Updated: 2 November 2020

COVID-19: supporting adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults
Guidance for care staff who are supporting adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults during the
coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
  o Updated: 20 October 2020

COVID-19: how to work safely in domiciliary care in England
A resource for those working in domiciliary care providing information on the use of personal protective
equipment (PPE).
  o Updated: 2 November 2020

COVID-19: epidemiological definitions of outbreaks and clusters
Description of the criteria used to define the beginning and end of an outbreak or a cluster in particular
settings.
  o Updated: 7 August 2020

Point of care

UpToDate is accessible via the library blog. It can also be accessed at uptodate.com/login with an OpenAthens
username and password. To register for an OpenAthens account click here.

Infection prevention: Precautions for preventing transmission of infection
The risk of transmission of pathogens and subsequent infection in health care facilities is substantial. Pathogens may
be transmitted from other patients, the hospital personnel, and/or the hospital environment. The risk is variable and
depends on a patient’s immune status, the local prevalence of various pathogens, and the infection control practices
and antimicrobial stewardship utilized during hospitalization.
Principles of infection control in long-term care facilities

Literature review current through: Oct 2020. | This topic last updated: Sep 03, 2019.

Long-term care facilities (LTCFs) represent a diverse group of health care settings that serve individuals of all ages and provide variable degrees of care; LTCFs are increasingly addressing a broader range of acute care needs. LTCFs include nursing homes, skilled-nursing facilities providing postacute care, assisted living facilities, retirement homes, rehabilitation centers, long-term care hospitals, long-term psychiatric facilities, and institutions for individuals with intellectual disabilities. For many residents, these facilities are a home as well as a place of nursing, medical, and/or psychosocial care.

Infection control in the outpatient setting


Health care delivery in outpatient settings is increasing. The layout of outpatient care areas can make implementation of isolation precautions difficult. Waiting rooms can be crowded, and patients with undiagnosed infection may serve as reservoirs for transmissible pathogens.

Overview of control measures for prevention of surgical site infection in adults


Surgical site infections (SSIs) are a common cause of health care-associated infection. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed criteria that define SSI as infection related to an operative procedure that occurs at or near the surgical incision within 30 days of the procedure or within 90 days if prosthetic material is implanted at surgery. SSIs are often localized to the incision site (superficial/deep incisional SSI) but can also extend into deep tissues.

Clostridioides (formerly Clostridium) difficile infection: Prevention and control


Clostridioides (formerly Clostridium) difficile is the causative organism of antibiotic-associated colitis. It is the most common infectious cause of health care-associated diarrhea and a significant cause of morbidity and mortality among hospitalized patients. Most cases of C. difficile infection (CDI) in the United States are associated with inpatient or outpatient contact with a health care setting.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Infection control in health care and home settings


At the end of 2019, a novel coronavirus was identified as the cause of a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, a city in the Hubei Province of China. It rapidly spread, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare a public health emergency in late January 2020 and characterize it as a pandemic in March 2020. The virus that causes COVID-19 is designated severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2); previously, it was referred to as 2019-nCoV.
1. Review uncovers fatal flaws in long-term care infection control
Author(s) Eggertson, Laura
Source Canadian Medical Association. Journal; Oct 2020; vol. 192 (no. 41); p. E1221
Publication Date Oct 2020
ISSN 0820-3946
Database BNI
A review into 53 deaths at Nova Scotia’s largest long-term care facility highlights critical staff shortages, problems isolating residents infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and difficulty accessing infection control specialists during the first wave of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. According to the review, the size and complexity of the 500-bed facility made Northwood especially susceptible to staff loss and infection spread.

- Available in full text at CMAJ : Canadian Medical Association journal = journal de l’Association medicale canadienne from Europe PubMed Central - Open Access
- Available in full text at CMAJ : Canadian Medical Association journal = journal de l’Association medicale canadienne from ProQuest (Health Research Premium) - NHS Version

2. Covid-19: London hospital where 70 staff had to self-isolate must improve infection control
Author(s) Dyer, Clare
Source BMJ : British Medical Journal (Online); Sep 2020; vol. 370
Publication Date Sep 2020
DOI 10.1136/bmj.m3526
ISSN 1756-1833
Database BNI
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, which is in Boris Johnson’s constituency, declared a covid-19 outbreak in July and revealed that 70 staff members, some of whom had tested positive, were self-isolating. Nigel Acheson, the CQC’s deputy chief inspector of hospitals, said, "We found a number of concerns relating to infection control and this is why we have taken action to ensure the safety of patients, staff and visitors. The trust must also provide the CQC with a copy of its written infection prevention and control action plan for the hospital, covering all areas, including dates for completion of each action, and give a weekly progress report to the CQC.

- Available in full text at BMJ (Clinical research ed.) from BMJ Journals - NHS
- Available in full text at BMJ (Clinical research ed.) from Unpaywall

3. Clinical deterioration and hospital-acquired complications in adult patients with isolation precautions for infection control: A systematic review
Author(s) Berry, Debra; Wakefield, Erin; Street, Maryann; Considine, Julie
Source Journal of Advanced Nursing; Sep 2020; vol. 76 (no. 9); p. 2235
Publication Date Sep 2020
DOI 10.1111/jan.14435
ISSN 0309-2402
Database BNI
There is no strong evidence that adult medical and surgical ward patients in isolation precautions for infection control are more or less likely to experience clinical deterioration or hospital-acquired complications. ImpactWhat problem did the study address? Are patients in isolation precautions more likely to experience clinical deterioration or hospital-acquired complications than non-isolated patients? What were the main findings? There is no strong evidence that clinical deterioration and hospital-acquired complications are more likely to occur to patients in isolation precautions for infection control. This research is of relevance to acute care nurses.

- Available in full text at Journal of advanced nursing from Wiley Online Library Medicine and Nursing Collection 2020
4. Practical and Ethical Nurse-Led Infection Control: Lessons from the Past, Moving Toward the Future

**Author(s)** Cannon, Emily; Bauer, Renee; Burdick, Kailee

**Source** Medsurg Nursing; 2020; vol. 29 (no. 4); p. 284

**Publication Date** 2020

**ISSN** 1092-0811

**Database** BNI

According to the CDC, no vaccine exists currently to prevent COVID-19. State health departments that identify a PUI or a laboratory-confirmed case are instructed to complete a PUI and Case Report form through processes identified on the CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 website (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/reporting-pui.html). State and local health departments can contact CDC's Emergency Operations Center (770-488-7100) for support with obtaining, storing, and shipping appropriate specimens to the CDC for testing (CDC, 2019) Community and Hospital Protection Nurses should continue educating members of the public on ways to stay healthy and safe while decreasing contagion.

- **Available in full text at MEDSURG Nursing from ProQuest (Health Research Premium) - NHS Version**

5. Using evidence to make a difference in infection control and COVID-19

**Author(s)** Peters, Micah D J; Marnie, Casey

**Source** Australian Nursing and Midwifery Journal; 2020; vol. 26 (no. 11); p. 34

**Publication Date** 2020

**ISSN** 2202-7114

**Database** BNI

There is currently no known cure for COVID-19 and if a vaccine is developed, it will be a world-first for coronaviruses - no small feat, especially if it can be developed within the coming months. [...]this time, the fundamentals of infection control and prevention are the most effective weapons in our fight against COVID-19. Correct and frequent hand hygiene particularly hand washing (over hand sanitiser) is therefore one of the most effective barriers to infection; nurses are well-placed to ensure that colleagues, patients, and community members are aware of this (Perkins 2017).

- **Available in full text at Australian Nursing and Midwifery Journal from ProQuest (Health Research Premium) - NHS Version**

6. A Central Sterile Processing and Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control Collaboration to Ensure Safe Patient Care

**Author(s)** Nack, Brenda, MSN, RN, CNOR, CSSM, CRCST; Nowakowski, Elaine; Nicholson, Frances, MPH, CPH, CIC, CPhT

**Source** AORN Journal; Jul 2020; vol. 112 (no. 1); p. 8

**Publication Date** Jul 2020

**DOI** 10.1002/aom.13071

**ISSN** 0001-2092

**Database** BNI

Cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization (CDS) practices and protocols are the cornerstone of infection control and patient safety. Central sterile processing (CSP) leaders are responsible for updating policies and procedures for sterile processing and ensuring CSP staff members process instruments correctly. Monitoring staff member practices can be a demanding and difficult task, but it is critical for safe patient outcomes. The CSP and perioperative leaders at our facility found that regular consultation and collaboration with the Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control (HEIC) is an effective way to ensure that patient safety is at the forefront of CDS practices.

- **Available in full text at AORN Journal from ProQuest (Health Research Premium) - NHS Version**
7. Anosmia and dysgeusia associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection: an age-matched case–control study

**Author(s)** Carignan, Alex, MD MSc; Valiquette, Louis, MD MSc; Grenier, Cynthia, MSc; Musonera, Jean Berchmans, MD; Nkengurutse, Delphin, MD et al.

**Source** Canadian Medical Association. Journal; Jun 2020; vol. 192 (no. 26); p. E702

**Publication Date** Jun 2020

**DOI** 10.1503/cmaj.200869

**ISSN** 0820-3946

**Database** BNI

Anosmia and dysgeusia have been reported as potential symptoms of coronavirus disease 2019. This study aimed to confirm whether anosmia and dysgeusia are specific symptoms among those who tested positive for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

**METHODS:** We conducted an age-matched case–control study in the Eastern Townships region of Quebec between Mar. 10 and Mar. 23, 2020. We included adults (age > 18 yr) who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction. Cases were matched (1:1) according to 5-year age groups with control patients selected randomly from among all patients who tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 during the same period.

- Available in full text at CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal = journal de l'Association medicale canadienne from Europe PubMed Central - Open Access
- Available in full text at CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal = journal de l'Association medicale canadienne from ProQuest (Health Research Premium) - NHS Version

8. Covid-19: Better data on outbreaks will help control infection, say experts

**Author(s)** Griffin, Shaun

**Source** BMJ: British Medical Journal (Online); Jun 2020; vol. 369

**Publication Date** Jun 2020

**DOI** 10.1136/bmj.m2310

**ISSN** 1756-1833

**Database** BNI

Registered deaths mentioning covid-19 in England and Wales are continuing to decline, with 1822 deaths in the week ending 29 May, 767 fewer than the previous week, show figures from the Office for National Statistics.1 However, the covid-19 death rate is declining slowly and has a "long tail," reflecting ongoing issues in care homes and SARS-CoV circulating in hospitals, said Carl Heneghan, director of the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine at the University of Oxford. At a Science Media Centre briefing on 9 June he said that, to support testing and tracking efforts, the Care Quality Commission and Public Health England should learn from Northern Ireland, where data are provided on active outbreaks of covid-19 in care homes and when these are resolved.

- Available in full text at BMJ from BMJ Journals
- Available in full text at BMJ from Unpaywall

9. Critical Infection Control Adaptations to Survive COVID-19 in Retirement Communities

**Author(s)** Munanga, Albert

**Source** Journal of Gerontological Nursing; Jun 2020; vol. 46 (no. 6); p. 3

**Publication Date** Jun 2020

**DOI** 10.3928/00989134-20200511-03

**ISSN** 0098-9134

**Database** BNI

Retirement communities are among "high-risk settings for severe outcomes from outbreaks of COVID-19, owing to both the advanced age and frequent chronic underlying health conditions of the residents and the movement of healthcare personnel." — Conclusion These adaptations, if embraced quickly, can help reduce transmission rate of COVID-19 in assisted living communities or similar congregate living settings. McKnight’s senior living survey: 75% report PPE shortages in senior living communities.

- Available in full text at Journal of Gerontological Nursing from ProQuest (Health Research Premium) - NHS Version
- Available in full text at Journal of Gerontological Nursing from Unpaywall
10. COVID-19: infection prevention and control advice for all healthcare settings
Source Nursing Children and Young People (2014+); May 2020; vol. 32 (no. 3); p. 11
Publication Date May 2020
DOI 10.7748/ncyp.32.3.11.s9
ISSN 2046-2336
Database BNI
Essential informationCOVID-19 has spread around the world and is officially a global pandemic, according to the World Health Organization.

Author(s) Norton, Emma Jane; Georgiou, Ioannis; Fung, Alex; Nazari, Armin; Bandyopadhyay, Soham et al.
Publication Date Oct 2020
DOI 10.1093/pubmed/fdaa187
ISSN 1741-3850
Database Medline
With medical students currently volunteering in and imminently returning to hospitals in an educational capacity, levels of self-reported PPE and IPC training are sub-optimal. Better training is paramount to avoid harm to patients and healthcare professionals and to reduce COVID-19-related anxiety among medical students and FiY1 doctors.
- Available in full text at Journal of public health (Oxford, England) from Unpaywall

Author(s) Morris, Sapna Bamrah; Schwartz, Noah G; Patel, Pragna; Abbo, Lilian; Beauchamps, Laura et al.
Source MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report; Oct 2020; vol. 69 (no. 40); p. 1450-1456
Publication Date Oct 2020
DOI 10.15585/mmwr.mm6940e1
ISSN 1545-861X
Database Medline
Hide Abstract
During the course of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, reports of a new multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) have been increasing in Europe and the United States (1-3). Clinical features in children have varied but predominantly include shock, cardiac dysfunction, abdominal pain, and elevated inflammatory markers, including C-reactive protein (CRP), ferritin, D-dimer, and interleukin-6 (1). Since June 2020, several case reports have described a similar syndrome in adults; this review describes in detail nine patients reported to CDC, seven from published case reports, and summarizes the findings in 11 patients described in three case series in peer-reviewed journals (4-6).
- Available in full text at MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report from ProQuest (Health Research Premium) - NHS Version
- Available in full text at MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report from Unpaywall
Author(s) Folly, Arran J; Lawson, Becki; Lean, Fabian Zx; McCracken, Fiona; Spiro, Simon et al.
Source Euro surveillance : bulletin Europeen sur les maladies transmissibles = European communicable disease bulletin; Oct 2020; vol. 25 (no. 41)
Publication Date Oct 2020
DOI 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.41.2001732
ISSN 1560-7917
Database Medline
In August 2020, as part of a long-term disease surveillance programme, Usutu virus was detected in five Eurasian blackbirds (Turdus merula) and one house sparrow (Passer domesticus) from Greater London, England. This was initially detected by reverse transcription-PCR and was confirmed by virus isolation and by immunohistochemical detection of flavivirus in tissues. Phylogenetic analysis identified Usutu virus African 3.2 lineage, which is prevalent in the Netherlands and Belgium, suggesting a potential incursion from mainland Europe.
- Available in full text at Euro surveillance : bulletin Europeen sur les maladies transmissibles = European communicable disease bulletin from Europe PubMed Central - Open Access
- Available in full text at Euro surveillance : bulletin Europeen sur les maladies transmissibles = European communicable disease bulletin from Unpaywall

14. SARS-CoV-2 infection, clinical features and outcome of COVID-19 in United Kingdom nursing homes.
Author(s) Graham, N S N; Junghans, C; Downes, R; Sendall, C; Lai, H et al.
Source The Journal of infection; Sep 2020; vol. 81 (no. 3); p. 411-419
Publication Date Sep 2020
DOI 10.1016/j.jinf.2020.05.073
ISSN 1532-2742
Database Medline
The SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in four UK nursing homes was associated with very high infection and mortality rates. Many residents developed either atypical or had no discernible symptoms. A number of asymptomatic staff members also tested positive, suggesting a role for regular screening of both residents and staff in mitigating future outbreaks.
- Available in full text at The Journal of infection from Unpaywall

15. Potential infection control risks associated with chilled beam technology: experience from a UK hospital.
Author(s) Inkster, T; Peters, C; Soulsby, H
Source The Journal of hospital infection; Aug 2020
Publication Date Aug 2020
DOI 10.1016/j.jhin.2020.08.011
ISSN 1532-2939
Database Medline
Energy efficiency technologies are now a feature in hospital design, with active chilled beams an example of one in use worldwide. Such innovations have clear benefits but there is a paucity of information with respect to any infection control risks. We describe our experience of chilled beam technology from one of our hospitals where we faced challenges with cleaning and episodes of water ingress including condensation. We highlight the importance of infection control risk assessment in relation to new technologies and the implementation of appropriate risk mitigation.

Author(s) Gulliford, Martin C; Charlton, Judith; Winter, Joanne R; Sun, Xiaohui; Rezel-Potts, Emma et al.

Source PLoS medicine; Jul 2020; vol. 17 (no. 7); p. e1003202

Publication Date Jul 2020

DOI 10.1371/journal.pmed.1003202

ISSN 1549-1676

Database Medline

These stratified estimates of risk help to identify groups in which antibiotic prescribing may be more safely reduced. Risks of sepsis and benefits of antibiotics are more substantial among older adults, persons with more advanced frailty, or following UTIs.

- Available in full text at PLoS medicine from Europe PubMed Central - Open Access
- Available in full text at PLoS medicine from Public Library of Science (PLoS)

17. Epidemiology of Epstein-Barr virus infection and infectious mononucleosis in the United Kingdom.

Author(s) Kuri, Ashvin; Jacobs, Benjamin Meir; Vickaryous, Nikki; Pakpour, Julia; Middeldorp, Jaap et al.

Source BMC public health; Jun 2020; vol. 20 (no. 1); p. 912

Publication Date Jun 2020

DOI 10.1186/s12889-020-09049-x

ISSN 1471-2458

Database Medline

We report that overall EBV seroprevalence in the UK appears to have increased, and that a sharp increase in EBV seropositivity is seen in adolescent females, but not males. The incidence of IM requiring hospitalisation is increasing. Exposures associated with prevalent IM in a diverse population include white ethnicity, lower BMI, and never-smoking, and these exposures interact with each other. Lastly, we provide pilot evidence suggesting that antibody responses to vaccine and commonly encountered pathogens do not appear to be diminished among EBV-seronegative individuals. Our findings could help to inform vaccine study designs in efforts to prevent IM and late complications of EBV infection, such as Multiple Sclerosis.

- Available in full text at BMC public health from BioMed Central
- Available in full text at BMC public health from Europe PubMed Central - Open Access


Author(s) Edgeworth, Jonathan D; Batra, Rahul; Wulff, Jerome; Harrison, David

Source Clinical infectious diseases : an official publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America; Jun 2020; vol. 70 (no. 12); p. 2530-2540

Publication Date Jun 2020

DOI 10.1093/cid/ciz720

ISSN 1537-6591

Database Medline

Large decreases in ICU-acquired infections occurred across the UK ICU network linked with the first few years of a national infection control campaign, but rates have since been static. Further reductions will likely require a new intervention framework.

- Available in full text at Clinical infectious diseases : an official publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America from Unpaywall
For a condition where swab and blood cultures are often negative, this study supports the use of ceftriaxone in combination with metronidazole. The administration of intranasal decongestants and corticosteroids correlated with a smaller percentage of those progressing to surgery in those with and without periorbital abscesses.

- Available in full text at International forum of allergy & rhinology from Wiley Online Library Medicine and Nursing Collection 2020
Elliott, Paul, ; Julie. Storr ; Annette. Jeanes


This current awareness bulletin contains an inexhaustive selection of information that has not been critically appraised by library staff. It is therefore the responsibility of the reader to appraise this information for accuracy and relevance.

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