Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for LCC staff visiting health and social care premises including domiciliary settings *who are not providing direct (hands on) care.*

This guidance is for staff, clinical and non-clinical, visiting during sustained transmission of COVID-19

May 2021

Lancashire
County
Council

PPE guidance is subject to changing national guidelines. Ensure that you are following the latest guidance at;

[COVID-19: infection prevention and control (IPC) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](www.gov.uk)

[COVID-19: how to work safely in care homes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](www.gov.uk)

Residents of care homes and other types of care settings are at high risk of severe disease from COVID-19. There is an increased risk of transmission of COVID-19 within these settings, which leads to an increased risk of outbreaks. Good IPC measures are essential throughout your visit.

On entry to premises.

Ensure you are bare below the elbows. Sleeves rolled up and no watches or wrist jewellery so as not to impede hand hygiene, keep rings to a minimum (wedding ring only).

Put on your mask correctly and decontaminate/clean your hands at the entrance using the correct technique using the Alcohol Hand Rub (AHR) available.

[How to wash your hands - NHS (www.nhs.uk)](www.nhs.uk)

The mask is worn to protect you and to help prevent you transmitting virus particles to others.

Once you have put on your mask you should not touch it until you come to remove it.

Make sure the mask fits as snugly to the face as possible, this may include the need to adjust the face straps or ear loops.

The face straps or ear loops should not be crossed over as this increases the gap on the cheeks. Consider trying a different mask if the fit is poor.

Avoid touching your face or mask and clean your hands if you have done so immediately with soap and water or alcohol hand rub (AHR).

Clean your hands regularly throughout the visit for approximately 20 seconds using either soap and water or AHR and after any activity or contact that potentially results in your hands becoming contaminated.

This includes after the removal of PPE and touching areas and objects that are touched frequently such as door handles or after signing in using a communal pen.

Throughout the visit observe the World Health Organisation Five moments for hand hygiene *see below.*

At the end of the visit ensure PPE is disposed of correctly following the above guidance and hands are once again decontaminated/cleaned.

Additional PPE as well as a mask may be necessary in certain situations. Refer to [COVID-19: how to work safely in care homes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](www.gov.uk)

**Infection.
Prevention.
Control.**
You're in safe hands

NHS

Your **5** moments for hand hygiene at the point of care

1 BEFORE RESIDENT CONTACT

2 BEFORE A CLEAN/ASEPTIC PROCEDURE

3 AFTER BODY FLUID EXPOSURE RISK

4 AFTER RESIDENT CONTACT

5 AFTER CONTACT WITH RESIDENT SURROUNDINGS

Adapted from the WHO Alliance for Patient Safety 2006

1	**BEFORE RESIDENT CONTACT**	**WHEN?**	Clean your hands before touching a resident when approaching him/her.
		WHY?	To protect the resident against harmful germs carried on your hands.
2	**BEFORE A CLEAN/ASEPTIC PROCEDURE**	**WHEN?**	Clean your hands immediately before any clean/aseptic procedure.
		WHY?	To protect the resident against harmful germs, including the resident's own, from entering his/her body.
3	**AFTER BODY FLUID EXPOSURE RISK**	**WHEN?**	Clean your hands immediately after an exposure risk to body fluids (and after glove removal).
		WHY?	To protect yourself and the healthcare environment from harmful resident germs.
4	**AFTER RESIDENT CONTACT**	**WHEN?**	Clean your hands after touching a resident and her/his immediate surroundings, when leaving the resident's side.
		WHY?	To protect yourself and the healthcare environment from harmful resident germs.
5	**AFTER CONTACT WITH RESIDENT SURROUNDINGS**	**WHEN?**	Clean your hands after touching any object or furniture in the resident's immediate surroundings when leaving—even if the resident has not been touched.
		WHY?	To protect yourself and the healthcare environment from harmful resident germs.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk   September 2020