



## Risk assessment framework for discharging residents back to care homes with outbreaks

Last winter, the Management of Care Home Outbreaks working group drafted a suggested framework for risk assessments to inform decision making on possible discharges of care homes residents into care homes experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks. We have updated this framework and confirmed with the UKHSA Adult Social Care COVID-19 Response Team that this remains applicable. Where necessary, adopting this approach will help to:

- ensure that each outbreak is risk assessed, based on the specific situation in the care home including staffing, suitable accommodation and the optimal placement for the resident; and
- avoid the need to keep an individual in hospital for 28 days whilst waiting for a VOC outbreak to be declared over (if safe to do so).

*Decisions involving resident discharge back to a care home known to have a COVID-19 outbreak should be based on an individual and dynamic risk assessment which encompasses a wide range of issues, including but not limited to:*

### **The resident**

- *their COVID-19 vaccination status (primary course and booster)*
- *their ability to isolate on re-admission*
- *their individual needs and how these would be impacted by outbreak control measures or by alternative accommodation*
- *their personal preferences (importantly, residents and their families should be made aware of the situation and given the opportunity to highlight any concerns and make alternative arrangements where necessary)*

### **Outbreak status**

- *the stage of the outbreak e.g. emerging versus recovery*
- *any evidence of ongoing transmission (informed by testing data)*
- *incubation periods/infectious periods and number/proportion of residents likely to be infectious (and their ability to self-isolate)*

### **The care home**

- *the proportion of residents and staff that have received vaccination booster doses*
- *the ability for IPC advice to be followed within the home including zoning of resident and cohorting of staff*
- *type of care home and the residents that live there (which may in turn impact on ability to follow outbreak prevention and control actions).*

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