

Date 7th December 2023
Our Ref ERHPT/FB/DM
Enquiries to East Region Health Protection
Direct Line 0300 790 6264
Email eos.eastregionhpt@nhs.scot

East Region Health Protection Service launch 12th December 2023

To all care home managers.

Following our letter to you earlier this week regarding the launch of the East Region Health Protection Team we are writing to advise you that the support you receive from the Health Protection Team should not change. However as this is a new service there are differences in the way we would like you to communicate with us.

A new outbreak notification form has been developed and should be used by care homes to report potential outbreak situations, including respiratory, gastrointestinal and other outbreaks of illness/infection. You will find a copy of this at the bottom of this letter and also as an attachment to the accompanying email which we ask you use going forward.

We have also developed the table below, which aims to support care homes to implement national guidance and perform local risk assessments. This table also provides information on how and when to contact our team.

We would be grateful for your feedback as these changes are implemented to allow us to continue to improve and develop the East Region Health Protection service.

Many thanks and best wishes

EAST REGION HEALTH PROTECTION TEAM

Author: East Region Health Protection Team
December 2023

Situation	Risk assessment	Reporting method
<p>Symptomatic staff</p> <p>Single symptomatic resident</p> <p>No evidence of transmission across care home</p>	<p>Risk assessment performed by care home.</p> <p>A new risk assessment should be completed by the care home for each symptomatic staff member.</p>	<p>Do not need reported routinely to the East Region Health Protection Team.</p> <p>If after accessing guidance you require support with your risk assessment contact the East Region Health Protection Team:</p> <p>Email: eos.eastregionhpt@nhs.scot</p> <p>Phone: 0300 790 6264 (Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00)</p> <p>Enquiries will be triaged and responded to by the HPT.</p>
<p>2 or more residents within the care setting displaying symptoms, including respiratory, gastrointestinal or another illness/infection (i.e. scabies)</p>	<p>Joint risk assessment with care home and health protection team. Please complete the East Region Health Protection Team potential outbreak notification form (template below).</p> <p>Testing should be performed as directed by the clinical (GP/ANP) and/or health protection team.</p> <p>Outbreak measures should be implemented whilst awaiting communication from East Region Health Protection Team.</p>	<p>Report possible outbreak to the East Region Health Protection Team using the potential outbreak notification form.</p> <p>On receipt of this form the East Region Health Protection Team will triage and respond to your notification.</p> <p>For <u>emergency advice</u> out of hours (Mon – Fri 6pm -9am, public holidays and weekends) continue to contact your local out of hours on-call public health service. This should not be used for requesting routine sample results or general advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borders:01896 826000 • Fife: 01592 643355 • Forth Valley:01324 566000 • Lothian 0131 5361000
<p>Transfers into a care home with an outbreak</p>	<p>Risk assessment performed by the care home.</p>	<p>Do not routinely need discussed with the East Region Health Protection Team.</p> <p>If after accessing the guidance you require support with your risk assessment contact the East Region Health Protection Team by:</p> <p>Email: eos.eastregionhpt@nhs.scot</p> <p>Phone: 0300 790 6264 (Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00)</p> <p>Enquiries will be triaged and responded to by the HPT.</p>

<p>Transfers out of a service with a declared outbreak into the care home</p>	<p>Risk assessment performed by the receiving care home and discharging service (hospital/care environment).</p>	<p>Do not routinely need discussed with the East Region Health Protection Team.</p> <p>If after accessing the guidance you require support with your risk assessment contact the East Region Health Protection Team by:</p> <p>Email: eos.eastregionhpt@nhs.scot</p> <p>Phone: 0300 790 6264 (Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00)</p> <p>Enquiries will be triaged and responded to by the HPT.</p>
<p>Declaring an outbreak over</p>	<p>Joint risk assessment performed by East Region Health Protection Team and care home.</p> <p>Outbreak measures can be stepped down on the advice of the East Region Health Protection Team who will also declare outbreak over at an appropriate time.</p>	<p>The East Region Health Protection Team will contact the care home to review outbreak measures. If you have information to share regarding your outbreak or are looking for advice please contact:</p> <p>Email: eos.eastregionhpt@nhs.scot</p> <p>Phone: 0300 790 6264 (Mon – Fri 09:00 – 18:00)</p>
<p>General enquiries including test results:</p>		<p>If after accessing the guidance you require support with your risk assessment contact the East Region Health Protection Team by:</p> <p>Email: eos.eastregionhpt@nhs.scot</p> <p>Phone: 0300 790 6264 (9am - 6pm Mon-Fri)</p> <p>Enquiries will be triaged and responded to by the HPT.</p> <p>For <u>emergency advice</u> out of hours (Mon – Fri 18:00-09:00, public holidays and weekends) continue to contact your local on-call public health service. This should not be used for requesting routine sample results or general advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borders:01896 826000 • Fife: 01592 643355 • Forth Valley:01324 566000 • Lothian 0131 5361000

East Region Health Protection Team Care Home Potential Outbreak Notification Form



Care Setting Name:	Date:
Care Setting Address:	Care Setting manager:
Contact Telephone Number:	Email address:

- Care settings are encouraged to familiarise themselves with current guidance and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) advice
 - **Guidance for COVID-19** <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/covid-19-information-and-guidance-for-social-community-and-residential-care-settings/covid-19-information-and-guidance-for-social-community-and-residential-care-settings-version-26/#section-1>
 - **Guidance for Flu** [Guidelines for PHE Health Protection Teams on the management of outbreaks of influenza-like illness \(ILI\) in care homes \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) Advice in relation to respiratory illness within the NIPCM replaces the previous Care Home Influenza guidance documents.
 - **Guidance for GI Outbreaks** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/2118/norovirus-guidance-for-care-homes-v1.pdf> Advice in relation to gastrointestinal illness within the NIPCM replaces the previous Care Home Norovirus and Influenza guidance documents.
 - **National Infection Prevention and Control manual:** [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Infection Prevention and Control Manual for older people and adult care homes \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Care settings/services are reminded that it is their responsibility to proactively implement control measures as per guidance immediately and independently in response to symptomatic residents
- **If you have 2 or more confirmed cases or 2 or more symptomatic residents, then please return this completed document to the Health Protection Team (HPT) immediately at: eos.eastregionhpt@nhs.scot for risk assessment with the East Region Health Protection Team**

Risk assessment Checklist	To be completed:
Summary of situation	
Total number of residents in setting	
Total number of symptomatic residents	
Total number of residents with confirmed infection	
Total number of staff working in setting	
Total number of staff with potential/confirmed infection	
Total number of floors/units/communal areas in care home and number affected in each:	
Names of floors/units affected	

Admissions to hospital in last 14 days:	
Resident Deaths in last 14 days:	
Any issues implementing control measure actions and/or infection prevention measures? i.e residents who walk with purpose, cohorting of residents/staff.	
Any issues with staffing?	
Please confirm that ALL staff understand AND are compliant with:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptom awareness and guidance on what to do if symptomatic • Testing, isolation and national stay at home guidance • Standard Infection Prevention and Control measures • Outbreak management measures 	

Names of up to 5 most recently symptomatic residents requiring testing

(NB for outbreak management purposes only test up to 5 residents to determine cause of infection).

	Name	Date of birth or CHI number	Unit/floor resident resides in	Date symptoms started	Symptoms	Date PCR/Stool Sample taken (only test up to 5 residents)	Additional Information
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

