

Infection Prevention and Control ECHO Knowledge Network

Minutes and discussion arising

Week 1 Subject: COVID-19, including lateral flow testing & risk assessments

Date: 18.02.2020

Time: 13:00 – 14:30

COVID-19 National picture - Dawn

Discussion arising

Case study: IPC management and COVID-19m - Mandy

Discussion arising

Alison: How often are daily visitors having lateral flow tests? Daily is recommendation ref essential visiting policy

Nicola: How does lateral flow testing visitors affect visiting times? Visitors can change up to 4 times but test is on each visit (can set up email booking) 45 mins per relative to test before going on to IPU

When test is booked what staff are available to cater for it? Ensure cover with ROTA – and staff often more competent with testing now so anyone can go to welcome point

Is there any further PCR testing guidance for staff, is this now mandatory, in addition from the lateral flow testing twice weekly.

Answer post-webinar from Amy Ellison, Infection Prevention Nurse Specialist, Sussex CCGs:

“No test is mandatory, however employers will need to risk assess staff if they decline to participate in routine testing how they can be deployed into a role that is lower risk.

The guidance you should follow:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963633/Care_Home_Testing_Guidance_England_v22-02_2.pdf

In reference to AGP, any info or advice for when assisting a patient to have a shower? would you just increase this to goggles or visors? Are any hospices continuing to use Jacuzzi baths?

I'm not aware of a need to restrict use of Jacuzzi baths. Sources of aerosols external to the body, do not require additional PPE. Showers, nebulisers etc. may generate non-infective aerosols from outside the body and are as a result are not included on the AGP list for enhanced PPE. Droplet precautions including eye protection should be worn if there is a risk of splashing of blood or bodily fluids for any task.

Case study: Managing a COVID-19 outbreak - Colin

Discussion arising

I know you remained open were you admitting new patients in outbreak? No not at that time

I have questions in reference to AGP, any info or advice for when assisting a patient to have a shower? would you just increase this to goggles or visors? Are any hospices continuing to use jacuzzi

baths? AGP is classed as cough inducing procedure. PPE protection is more the relevant point here. Guidance says FFP3 and fit tested for AGP procedures but for showers, jacuzzis etc. steam creation is consideration but usually doesn't carry virus so protection for PPE as per standard guidance is used and consider footwear if necessary (and remember single use gloves)

Case study: IPC risk management and COVID-19 – Heather

Discussion arising

Bulletin content suggestions:

PHE and NHS bulletins are used for updates

GOV.UK is usually the source for testing

Info other than COVID for IPC would therefore be welcome in HUK bulletin

Plus what other developments occur i.e. multi-drug resistant organisms

Yes, other bacterial infections need a focus too - *Difficile* conditions for example

And across 4 nations

Case study and presenter offers/suggestions:

Invited to send to: echo@hospiceuk.org