

Infection Prevention Team Newsletter April 2024

Our Newsletters- Did you Know?

This monthly newsletter from the Westmorland and Furness Health Protection IPC team is designed to be easily shared with your team- we always keep the length to a max 1 side of A4 paper when printed and the QR code in the top right corner can be scanned with a smartphone to take you to the electronic version to allow you to follow any of the embedded links for more details.



Spring Health- 'Lambing Season'

As the weather improves, the fields are full of new life but please think about hand hygiene when handling lambs and other farm animals. These animals can carry infections such as **chlamydia, toxoplasmosis, and listeria**. All these infections can be transmitted to humans and can cause very serious illnesses. If you have any animals visiting the home, it is essential that you complete a risk assessment prior to the visit and ensure that prompt access to hand washing is supported immediately after contact with any animal.

Animals in Care Homes Policy- Is it time to refresh your knowledge and check that your policy is up to date, and all staff are aware of the importance?

Covid-19 changes – Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs)

From April 1, 2024, there are important changes regarding lateral flow tests in care homes. The central order-line has now closed and there is no need to 'routinely' test. During an outbreak of respiratory infection PCR testing may be advised and arranged by UKHSA if required (for Flu or Covid). For residents who may require urgent treatment if positive, LFDs will still be made available. [See the updated guidance.](#)

National infection prevention and control manual (NIPCM) for England updated on 15th February 2024. This is an evidence-based practice manual for use by all those involved in care provision in England. [NHS England » National infection prevention and control manual \(NIPCM\) for England](#)

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Audits for all Nursing and Residential Homes

The IPC Team are currently arranging IPC audits with all our Nursing and Residential Care Homes, using the 'Harrogate' IPC Audit Tool, available on our [shared document drive.](#)

Please do continue to report incidents and outbreaks to the IPC team where we can offer outbreak support. Report via email to IPC@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk