

Infection Prevention Team Newsletter June 2024

Reminder- Changes to Covid 19 Guidance (from April 2024)

The NHS has expanded access to antiviral treatments for Covid 19 (nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab) for the following groups:

- People aged 85years and over.
- People with end-stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device.
- People aged 70 or over, or who have a BMI of 35kg/m² or more, diabetes or heart failure AND
 - are resident in a Care Home, or
 - are already hospitalised.

This means that approximately 80% of Care Home residents will be eligible for treatment and therefore eligible for testing.

BE PREPARED

The national order line for LFD tests is now closed but tests are available from your pharmacy for eligible individuals- please don't wait for an outbreak to get some LFDs in stock.

Be Summer Safe

Summer events such as BBQs and summer fetes increase the risk of some infections such as tummy bugs like E. Coli, Campylobacter and Cryptosporidium which can be very unpleasant and sometimes cause very serious (occasionally fatal) complications, especially for immunocompromised individuals. These can be caused by undercooked meat or fish or poorly stored dairy food products but also can result from not washing hands properly after handling animals (especially farm animals).

Warmer weather also brings a greater risk of sunburn, sunstroke and dehydration so frequent application of suncream, wearing protective clothing such as hats, sunglasses and moving into the shade is essential. Extra fluids should be encouraged, and these can be in the form of drinks but also ice lollies and frozen juices/ berries. Dehydration increases the risks of Urinary Tract infections (UTIs) but also can increase confusion and affect blood pressure leading to an increased risk of falling.

Trips and falls can also result from the change in light levels such as when stepping back in to the house from outside or the effects of light patterns on floors from windows. Those who wear light reactive glasses may find this particularly problematic.

LINKS: [IPC Policies and Procedures](#) (scroll down) [Free IPC training online](#)

We are always here to help- email us at IPC@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk