

Frequently Asked Questions for all staff working within care services

Issued: 10 April 2020

Personal Protective Equipment

What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are your care staff wearing and is it enough?

We are strictly complying with the latest Public Health England (PHE) guidance on what PPE should be used for the services which we provide: This is detailed in the PHE guidance for care homes and community settings- this is different to the PPE required in acute hospital settings. Our PPE includes:

- Details on hand washing and we have hand sanitiser available throughout the service
- Single use gloves and aprons, face masks, where we cannot provide a distance greater than 2 metres when delivering care task, and eye protection (if required)
- We have provided clear guidance for all staff within our care services on PPE, including how to put on and take off the equipment safely.

In the absence of community testing, whenever a resident shows signs of an infection, our care staff are treating this as a suspected case of coronavirus.

When this occurs staff immediately start a process to have signage on rooms and details regarding single use equipment as an additional prompt and reminder to all.

Why are you not wearing the same Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as hospitals?

The recommended PPE for residential and domiciliary care providers is different to that of hospitals.

All our care services have the type of PPE stocked that is recommended by Public Health England (PHE) for the type of care we provide.

Do we have enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

We do have enough stock for all sites, and we are monitoring usage and supply daily. We also have a dedicated procurement team working hard to source the correct PPE from various suppliers on a continuous basis.

If there is an outbreak, would different Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be provided?

Our staff are routinely wearing PPE for all care activities and other key duties which require close contact with a resident. The type of PPE for residential care settings is different to that of hospital services, so in that respect the PPE would not change.