

ASC Covid-19 Weekly Forum

Session 1: Infection Control in ASC Settings [24/03/2020]

The session was chaired by Ros Roughton, Director of Adult Social Care, with expert input from Jenny Harries, Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

Full audio recording of the session can be found [here](#).

Key guidance:

- [Residential care](#)
- [Supported living](#)
- [Home care](#)
- [Infection control and prevention](#)

We are continuing to develop guidance in response to sector needs and concerns. For the latest guidance, please continue to check gov.uk/coronavirus

Symptoms

The main symptoms are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

Other symptoms reported include muscle aches, shivers, and an overall feeling of ‘not feeling well’. Occasionally, people report a loss of their sense of smell or taste.

Infection Control and PPE

It’s important to continue practising appropriate waste disposal and hygiene practices, with a focus on regular and thorough washing of hands and cleaning of surfaces.

If those receiving care show symptoms of COVID 19, carers need to focus even more on washing, bathing and their own personal hygiene. If a carer feels unwell and shows symptoms of COVID 19, they should take themselves away early on.

Equipment that may be appropriate for care staff is aprons, gloves and fluid repellent masks. Occasionally, eye protective equipment might be needed. This will be clarified in upcoming FAQs on personal protective equipment.

Supply

Government is working at pace with suppliers and urges care providers with immediate concerns over their supply of PPE, to contact the new dedicated line for the health and social care sector:

The National Supply Disruption line

Tel: 0800 915 9964 - Email: supplydisruption@nhsbsa.nhs.uk