

Infection Prevention Team Newsletter December 2025

IPC arrangements over the festive period

The Infection Prevention Team will be available 9am to 5pm (3.30pm on 24/12/25) every day **except** bank holidays and weekends.

On bank holidays and weekends UKHSA on call staff will provide emergency Health Protection advice **for urgent issues which cannot wait until the next working day** (e.g. a suspected flu outbreak which may require testing and/or antiviral treatment). They can be contacted on 0344 225 0562. For everything else please email ipc@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk and we will respond on the next working day. When contacting us please provide as much detail as possible:

- number of residents/ staff affected
- onset dates (& last day in work for staff)
- any samples taken and results if known (e.g. 'LFT negative')
- Be specific on symptoms (e.g. use the 'Bristol stool chart' not 'loose stools')
- IPC actions put in place to control the spread of the infection (e.g. isolation, enhanced cleaning, increased use of PPE, restricted visiting, etc)
- Number of residents in hospital (date admitted, which hospital), etc
- The best number to call you back on the next working day and who to speak to if you won't be available

For clinical concerns/ diagnosis, the GP or Out of Hours service (or ambulance) must be contacted first.

LFD & PPE stock levels. Check dates on existing stock and make sure you have ordered sufficient LFDs for those residents eligible for testing and treatment in plenty of time before the Christmas period. Here is the link to participating pharmacies: [NHS participating pharmacies for free LFD tests](#)

Do you have enough PPE? Including masks and eye protection in the event of an outbreak of acute respiratory infection. Gloves, aprons, soap, paper towels, alcohol hand rub? Is everything in date? [PPE Requirements poster ARI](#)

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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