

GP IPC Webinar – Questions - 28th November 2023

Please note that the advice given was current at that time and in line with the UKHSA guidance.

Q: We have a lot of alcohol gel in containers with an expiry date, It is a silly question but does alcohol expire. There are bottles of them now expired

A: Unless there has been a specific letter issued from the manufacturer stating that there has been an extension on the expiry date, the recommendation is that alcohol gel be disposed of and be replaced once it reaches its expiry date, because it may be less effective.

Q: Just a general polite observation but it does seem contradictory to actively encourage staff not to test for covid19, whilst at the same time providing a large set of protocols to follow in the event that an outbreak is spotted, which would almost always be under the radar because of the lack of testing. seems counterintuitive and suggestive that the measures are not necessary if people aren't encouraged to test

A: The guidance from UKHSA is that staff do not test unless they are caring for severely immunocompromised in patients [Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-healthcare-staff-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-or-a-positive-covid-19-test-result). COVID-19 is a notifiable disease and it is a requirement that this be reported [Notifiable diseases and causative organisms: how to report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report). It is a requirement from NHSE & UKHSA that outbreaks be reported. IIMARCH forms must be completed.

Q: I no longer feel as if I can do right from doing wrong. mixed messages and very frustrating!

A: The IPC team are always here to support.

Q: Is it ok to have hand emollient at each clinical sink in GP practice or is this against infection control?

A: We would advise that hand cream be available in at least one area for staff to access. At the side of the sink is fine, preferable wall mounted to prevent cluttering of the sink area and away from any splashback to prevent contamination.

Q: How do we dispose of out-of-date alcohol gel?. We also have large supplies from the original push deliveries for COVID vaccines?

A: We are looking into the question re alcohol gels and will report back once the answer is confirmed. Please liaise with your pharmacy re disposing of large amounts of vaccines.

Q: Please could we have Current guidance to go to PM's in a breakdown. Crib sheet.

A: We can look at putting something together. The problem here is that guidance changes regularly and so the advice given may go out of date. please see the below guidance links to refer to and share with staff, as discussed at the webinar.

[Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-healthcare-staff-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-or-a-positive-covid-19-test-result)

[PRN00908-national-infection-prevention-and-control-manual-for-england-v2.7.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114000/PRN00908-national-infection-prevention-and-control-manual-for-england-v2.7.pdf)



[C1657_next-steps-on-infection-prevention-and-control-letter_010622.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

IPC Webinar presentations can be found here: [IPC Webinar Resources and Links \(hwetraininghub.org.uk\)](#)

Q: Will the IPC be doing spot checks/audits in surgeries to check compliance?

We are currently still offering to visit practices and work with staff to carry out the ICAT IPC Audits. Going forward we will be proving the tool so that practices can audit themselves. We are currently putting together some training for this.

Q: measles vaccination- CQC states we need evidence of protection, but some staff are not wanting the vaccination and have no evidence of immune status. Can they sign a disclaimer for this ?

A: We would advise that staff contact occupational health. If the staff are refusing vaccination or to have their immune status checked, then they cannot be forced into this but there should be some evidence to prove that management have encouraged staff and have had discussions with staff members, raising awareness around the risks and signposted to the guidance. Therefore, yes, we would encourage that a disclaimer be completed for evidence.

Q:I contracted measles as a child so I don't need to have a vaccine do ?

A: discussions should be had with your occupational health provider re this issue, as your immune status will need to be checked.

Q: Recent IPC audit stated no longer required to change sharps bins every 3 months?

A: This is no longer a requirement.

Q:Where is the IPC manual

A: [PRN00908-national-infection-prevention-and-control-manual-for-england-v2.7.pdf](#)

