

GP IPC Webinar – Questions - 26th September 2023

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

Q: Please could you name a solidifying agent?

A: Please contact your product supplier for these . You could also discuss with neighbouring practices.

Q: Are we still supposed to test for COVID 19 If we are expected to report outbreaks?

A: Please see the guidance for the criteria for testing [Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) . If you have 2 or more COVID-19 positive staff (connected within time and place), we would advise that you contact the IPC team and we can look into the situation with you.

Q: Are we still supposed to be reporting COVID?

A: If there are 2 or more staff that are linked within time and place then yes please do.

Q: Are we able to get a supply of LFTs for the surgery or is it just per person?

A: Currently a pathway is being created . We will feedback once this is in place.

Q: Are we not able to get flu/covid at workplace as we did in previous years?

A: You are able to book a COVID vaccination online [COVID-19 vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#). Flu vaccines can be given via a local pharmacy or by your GP. [Flu vaccination guidance for social care workers and carers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). [Find a pharmacy that offers the NHS flu vaccine - NHS - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#).

Q: Has the guidance changed. If you test positive, is it still return after 5 days?

A: Please refer to [Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Staff are advised not to attend work for at least 5 days. They should only return if they feel well enough to work, and they do not have a high temperature. If they are still displaying respiratory symptoms when they return to work, they should speak to their line manager who should undertake a risk assessment.

Q: how many constitutes an outbreak.

A: Two or more people that are connected within time and place.

Q: Are you still providing ICAT assessments in surgeries?

A: We are still carrying out IPC Audits, please contact Hwe.hcai@nhs.net to arrange for an audit to be undertaken.

Q: What's the update with Spirometry please, can we perform without the filter/screens etc?

A: All information regarding this can be found on the training hub. Information around this has not changed recently.



Q: COSHH - yearly updated? Does it need to be 'hard copy' as well as on our electronic system? How long do we need to keep these copies for?

A: This can be either a hard copy or you could store this on your electronic system or both. Please keep for as long as you are using the product.

Q: Is a coil fitting classed as a high-risk procedure?

A: Coil fitting is classed as a “minor surgery” so yes it would be.

Q: Without meaning to sound stupid, how would we know there is an outbreak of COVID-19 if staff are not testing

A: If staff have worked together and have symptoms there is a high chance that this could be an outbreak situation. Staff should stay off work as per guidance even if they have not tested for COVID-19.

Q: Can i ask why covid is no longer as severe e.g., deaths, ITU etc

A: A few factors could be that:

- More people are now vaccinated against COVID-19
- Herd immunity
- The virus has mutated and changed.

