

Isolation Protocol (decontamination process) Covid-19

Sources of information

Nationally resources are available via PHE or NHSE/I. They are updated regularly so please ensure you are referencing the latest version.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wn-cov-guidance-for-primary-care/wn-cov-interim-guidance-for-primary-care>

General guidance for patients is updated regularly and available on the member's area of BSol CCG's website.

Please ensure this guidance is updated within your organisation when new guidance is released. Our Comms team email practices directly with significant changes and update the CCG website as changes occur.

<https://www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/>

Action – *Ensure posters, information in manual or digital formats are the most up to date versions.*

Isolation

The implementation of standard precautions will reduce the risk of the transmission of infection in General Practice. However, patients with suspected Covid-19 should be segregated in a dedicated isolation room (appendix 1) so that the risk of infection to others is minimised. See face-to-face consultation flow chart

<https://www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/your-health/coronavirus-advice-for-professionals/3605-face-to-face-consultation-flowchart-13032020/file>

An unwell patient with relevant symptoms should have been identified when they book in at reception. If COVID-19 is considered possible when a consultation is already in progress, withdraw from the room, close the door and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

The patient should remain in the room with the door closed. Belongings and waste should remain in the room. The patient and any accompanying family should remain in the room with the door closed.

Advise others not to enter the room. If a clinical history still needs to be obtained or completed, do this by telephone. Patient or staff to contact 111 for further advice.

Decontamination – Isolation room

The isolation room (see appendix 1) should not be used until it has been decontaminated by a trained member of clinical staff. See appendix 2.

If this cannot take place immediately, a notice should remain on the door informing staff not to enter.

Decontamination - Communal Areas

If the patient with suspected Novel Coronavirus has been in contact with communal areas, please follow cleaning guidance - appendix 2.

Toileting

The patient **should not** be allowed to use communal toilets. Each establishment needs to risk assess this and identify a toilet that can be used in such circumstances. On the journey to the toilet, the patient must be instructed to not touch anything or anyone whilst walking to the toilet. Instruct the patient to wash their hands thoroughly after toileting. After use the toilet must be closed to public use until decontaminated as advised in appendix 2.

If a patient has already been to the toilet, the toilet area must be closed to the public until decontaminated by a trained member of staff.

A note on hand hygiene

There are multiple resources for staff and patients via CCG website for handwashing techniques. Please ensure adequate soap and paper towels are available.

Hand gels need to contain a minimum of 60% alcohol and be of healthcare standard to ensure efficacy and are available in all clinical rooms, isolation room and near common touch points such as checking-in screen.

Supplies

Please note supplies of PPE (including fluid resistant face masks) should be reserved for emergency care and support of a suspected case.

Appendix 1

Designated Isolation Room

- Identify a **designated room** (this room ideally needs to be a clinic room or a room that can be quickly and easily cleaned, carpeted areas **cannot** be used)
- Remove any unnecessary items which are not needed in the room. No fabric chairs and vertical blinds all items need to be wipeable.
- Reduce stock of dressings, speculum, swabs etc. to a minimum and keep those in use in a sealed, smooth plastic container.
- Display notice (Appendix 4) to be placed on the outside of the door if in use for isolation purposes
- Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) can be kept outside of the room but should be worn before entering if re-entering the room is unavoidable.
- PPE, couch roll and other fabric items will need to be disposed of and treated as infectious waste
- Ensure hand decontamination facilities are available or if not available as a minimum ensure alcohol gel (min 60%) is within the room and handwashing is undertaken at the earliest opportunity.
- Foot operated bin with suitable waste bag for clinical/category B waste (orange or yellow as described in HTM 07-01) according to local waste contractor arrangements.
- Sharps box suitable for incineration (according to local waste disposal contractor)
- Only use furniture that can be decontaminated

Appendix 2

Environmental Decontamination Instructions for Covid-19

- Switch off any air conditioning, open a window and leave the door shut during cleaning.
- Collect and prepare all cleaning equipment and waste bags before entering room
- Ensure poster on outside of door until room fully decontaminated
- Wear appropriate PPE; gloves and apron
- All surfaces should be cleaned using detergent and water followed by a solution containing Sodium Hypochlorite solution at a strength of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine. A combined one step detergent and disinfectant product (e.g. Chlor-Clean* or Actichlor Plus Tablets) may be used.



When diluted 1 tablet in 1 litre gives 1000ppm (0.1%) available chlorine

- A risk assessment for the use of eye protection against splash back of cleaning product must be made by the individual. Disinfectants should be strictly made up according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Decontaminate as per instructions above, all hard surfaces, chairs, desks, equipment, couches, door handles etc.
- Dispose of cloths, mop heads or other cleaning equipment as **category B waste (orange and yellow bags)** as described in HTM 07-01.
- Vinyl floors must be cleaned in accordance with the above guidance e.g. mop floors with Chlor-clean or firstly with detergent followed by a 1000 parts per million of chlorine.
- Fabric Curtains to be disposed of or laundered by NHS specialist laundering service
- Disposable curtains to be disposed of in category B waste
- Fabric vertical blinds to be disposed of in category B waste
- All other fabrics to be disposed of (e.g. pillow cases, including pillow)
- Dispose of any unused couch roll in category B waste

- Any equipment without a hard surface needs to be disposed of in category B waste
- Remove PPE in correct order (gloves first then apron) and dispose as category B waste (see below)
- Wash and dry hands thoroughly before leaving room
- The room is safe to use immediately after cleaning

Waste Disposal

- bag all items that have been used for the care of the patient as clinical waste, for example, contents of the waste bin and any consumables that cannot be cleaned with detergent and disinfectant
- Use appropriate coloured sharps boxes and bags (orange and yellow) which comply to category B waste guidance as described in HTM 07-01.
- all waste from suspected contaminated areas should be removed from the room and quarantined until patient test results are known (this may take 48 hours); if the patient is confirmed to have COVID-19 further advice should be sought from the local HPT

ISOLATED AREA



NO UNAUTHORISED ENTRY

Appendix 4

**Do not enter room.
Awaiting decontamination**



References

- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (2017). Community Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for General Practice: *Isolation*. Available at <https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/isolation-general-practice/>
- NHS England and Improvement (2020) Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) standard operating procedure. General Practice. Version 1.1 5th March 2020. Available at; <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/coronavirus-standard-operating-procedures-for-primary-care-settings/>
- PHE (2020) *WN-CoV: interim guidance for primary care* (2020). Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wn-cov-guidance-for-primary-care/wn-cov-interim-guidance-for-primary-care> (updated 2020.03.18)