



# Care Homes COVID-19 Admissions

An update from Gillian Partridge  
Community Infection Prevention and Control  
Team Lead

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

## Admitting Residents in COVID-19 Outbreaks

A risk-based approach must be taken when considering admissions taking the following into account:

- The size of outbreaks
- Impact on staff
- The care home environment, including size/layout
- Rates of booster vaccination
- Current Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating

## NYCC COVID-19 Guidance Updated December 2022

This guidance is intended to provide extra support on COVID-19 assessments and covers:

- (Re)admission of individuals into settings where there is currently an outbreak (whose COVID-19 status could be positive or negative)
- (Re)admission of COVID-19 positive individuals into a setting where there is no current COVID-19 outbreak

<file:///S:/Community%20IPC/Guidance/NYCC%20Public%20Health%20COVID-19%20advice%20for%20care%20settings.V3.pdf>

## Risk Assessments

- Care home providers must be able to refuse admissions where they feel they cannot provide safe care and they must not be put under undue pressure
- The registered manager can accept the admission, providing the risk assessment indicates it is safe to do so.

## Testing for Admission

- PCR test within 72 hours before admission (or a lateral flow test if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days) and a lateral flow test on the day of admission
- Tests provided by the care home if the individual is being admitted from the community or by the hospital if being discharged into the care home.
- Discharge from hospital into a care home will normally include a PCR test undertaken within 48 hours prior to discharge, or a lateral flow test if the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days
- If an individual tests positive on either of these tests and continues to be admitted to the care home, they should be isolated on arrival and follow the guidance on care home residents who are symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19.

## Important to Note

- Admission decisions must be made by the Registered Manager on an individual basis and documented as per: [NYCC COVID-19 Guidance Annex A: Checklist/guidance for COVID-19 risk assessments for admissions to care homes](#)
- All admissions require the informed consent of the individual involved and/or their nominated representative.

## Risk Assessments Should be Based Upon

- The exceptionality of the admission
- The size of outbreak and whether it only affects staff
- The care home environment, including size/layout
- Rates of booster vaccination among residents and staff
- At least one clear round of whole home testing since the last positive case
- Any outstanding concerns e.g. IPC issues, CQC rating
- Risk assessment in place for individual (including testing, isolation etc.)
- Any concerns for staffing levels
- The ultimate risk of admitting versus not admitting

Thanks for Listening Any Questions?

Community Infection Prevention and Control Team

Telephone 01423 557341

[infectionprevention.control@nhs.net](mailto:infectionprevention.control@nhs.net)