

Infection Prevention and Control Cell High Level Summary 20/04/20 – 22/04/20

1. National Cell Update

Issues in NI regarding what constitutes an AGP. It is evident that every speciality will have a view on the procedures that they undertake. It was agreed on the National Cell today that the current list of AGPs is what we are to follow until any update is issued from NERVTAG. If the NERVTAG list is not released this week the issue will be raised by Rodney to CNO/CMO.

PPE Table 1,2 and 3 have been combined and gives a clear understanding of single and sessional use. Caroline will provide further detail on when the revised version is to be issued.

Caroline shared a PHA Compendium with the containing links to Covid-19 info.

2. PPE Modelling

Rodney took part in a telecall with PHE re PPE Modelling. Rodney to share these papers with IPC Cell. The methodology used in NI is very similar to that used by PHE. Learning to be taken on board re how PHE calculate interactions.

Rodney has asked a member of the modelling team aligned to Ian Young (Chief Scientific Advisor), to work with us re PPE Modelling and social distancing. Rodney will put together a Task and Finish Group for this piece of work.

AGP list will impact any modelling we do.

Agreement from IPC Cell that using categories such as level 1,2 and 3 for PPE is confusing and hard to instil in staff. [] NR has sent through a recommendation re classification of PPE for IPC discussion. Once agreed Rodney will pass this on to Modelling T&F Group.

3. Covid-19 guidance for Nursing and Residential Care Homes in Northern Ireland

Guidance shared with the IPC Cell for comments. A number of minor amendments made by the group to ensure consistency with PHE Guidance. Rodney will communicate to DoH the changes and insertion of link to PHA Guidance.

4. COVID-19: Advice on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Community Care Homes

Comments from SHSCT on the above fact sheet circulated to the group. SHSCT advised they have taken an umbrella approach and PPE is being used on a continuous basis. This is not consistent across all HSCT. Agreement that PHE

guidance on providing care safely will be applied regionally. Rodney will liaise with DoH re pushing this guidance out through RQIA.

5. Query re the volume of AGPs in Community, Domiciliary and Home Care sectors

Email issued to IPC Leads to determine if it would be possible to identify the volume of Aerosol Generated Procedures within the Community, Domiciliary and Home Care Sectors across each HSCT area. IPC Leads noted this should go through HSCT Incident Control Rooms. HSCTs to send incident control room email address to

NR

6. PPE: Safe use of Visors poster

The poster was shared with Silver and with IPC Cell for comment. Comment added to the poster to ensure alignment to HSE guidance. "In the UK the regulation of PPE is the responsibility of the HSE, this document should be used in conjunction with HSE guidance. The HSE do not support the decontamination and re-use of PPE marked as single use". Rodney to send final poster to Gold for approval.

7. PPE Utilisation Task and Finish Group

Request from DoH to provide direction and/or clarification to HSCNI on the most effective utilisation of PPE and as appropriate differentiate how PPE should be used within and across care settings. NR is leading on this piece of work and a task and finish group has been set up. TOR drafted and shared with IPC Cell. TOR to be amended following first Task and Finish Group meeting on 22/04/20. DoH to receive amended TOR from Rodney.

8. IPC Support for HSCT

IPC Support identified for each HSCT and will begin post before Monday 27th April. The main focus of the role will be to help Trusts plan for additional support and help prepare for the increase in trends with respect to COVID19 in the Care Home Sector and Primary care COVID19 centres. Support and Guidance will be provided by the Health Surveillance Team in PHA who already hold responsibility for 'outbreak management' in care homes. This team is led by Alison Griffiths (Team Lead) and Caroline McGeary (PHA rep on IPC national cell).

9. Step down of showering

Issue raised re showering being stood down in Dom care and Residential settings in NHSCT. Staff concerns re masks getting wet and goggles steaming up. Naomi Baldwin tested the masks and used fog strip on the goggles and advised that if managed correctly the mask should remain dry and there will be minimal fogging in goggles. Naomi drafting email to Head of Dom Care to advise of this.

10. Query raised re people in receipt of direct payments and PPE

If a citizen is receiving direct payments and requires AGPs it would be appropriate for the local HSCT to fit test and provide equipment.

11. Collection of Nose and Throat swab for COVID 19

Final version of document shared with IPC Cell and Brid Farrell. Link to Swabbing Protocol for Care Homes (nursing and residential) and Supported Living Centres will be included in the document. Discussions re swab videos and what the best option is 1) Use a current video 2) Develop a new video. Discussions to take place off line between Naomi, Irene, Isobel and Ciaran to resolve issue re double swabbing and feedback to the group 23/04/20. Potential option to contact Rachel in CNO's office re developing a video rapidly.

12. PHA Research Project with Care Homes

Muhammad Sartaj, Health Protection PHA, leading on this project carrying out swabs in care homes. Acknowledgement from the group that GP's need to be aware of this as some GP's are receiving positive swab emails without knowledge the swab was being carried out.

IPC Leads keen to have a brief outline of the research and an overview of the Homes within their Trust areas who are participating. Gary Cousins following up on this.

13. Issue raised re confusion of which guidance to refer staff to

NR to pull together a document outlining the PHE guidance and the guidance being used regionally in Northern Ireland. This summary will include collaborative work been PHA and RQIA. All information for Care Home Sector will go through RQIA.

14. Query re PPE for families providing palliative care to a person tested positive for Covid-19

This is currently not featured on modelling work. Caroline will raise this at the next National IPC Cell.