



IPC CARE HOME CHAMPIONS



**Infection Prevention and Control
Care Home Champions Newsletter – December 2022**

Welcome to the latest IPC Care Home newsletter. You may have spotted the change to our logo, we have updated and relaunched our Champions branding. We listened to your feedback from the workbook launch and you all recognised the NHS blue and yellow has always been the nationally recognised colour for infection control (think national cleaning codes).

We will be out delivering the new badges to all our fantastic Care Home Champions. We hope you will wear it with pride and encourage safe IPC practice and have the confidence to challenge or change poor compliance.

CARE HOME CHAMPIONS TRAINING EVENT

**Tally Ho
Pershore Rd
Date
7th October
2022**

IPC Care Home Team recently hosted a well-attended Champions Training event.

We received excellent feedback and hope that the knowledge gained will support and empower you all to make improvements within your home.

Thank you to all who attended. We hope to continue with our Champions Training program in the future.





IPC CARE HOME CHAMPIONS



Just a few of our incredible IPC Champions, we do have many more photos and will be sharing them with BCC for them to display on their web page.





IPC CARE TEAM TALK



What and where have the team been up to?

Back in July we submitted to 'The Nursing Times' the collaborative work that Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust, and Birmingham City Council undertook to support the Adult Social Care sector through the COVID-19 pandemic.

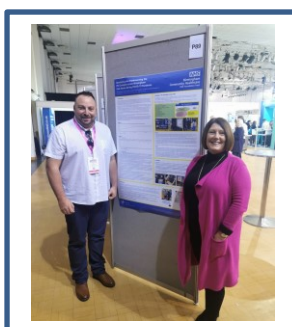
We were successful in our submission and as finalists asked to present further information to the judging panel. Mandy Brailey and Jean Dipple travelled down to London and very proudly played the video containing the 'voices' of some of the Champions talking about the difference our support has made to them. It was an honour to share the work the Care Homes have done during these challenging times ensuring IPC remains at the top of their agenda, with clean safe care a priority.

In November we then attended the award ceremony to see if we were successful in our category. The competition was incredibly high, with many entrants from all sectors across the UK.

Sadly, we did not come away with the award, however being a finalist in such a prestigious award is an amazing achievement and real testament to the wonderful work that can be completed when we work together to improve Infection Prevention and Control to the citizens of Birmingham.



Mandy Brailey and Ian Rollason attended the Infection Prevention Society Conference at Bournemouth, where again they delivered a presentation and submitted a poster for display. This was also very well received, prompting lots of interest and questions around our training program, our approach to auditing and sharing Birmingham care homes IPC improvements.





IPC CARE TEAM TALK



What and where have the team been up to?

Lastly the IPC Care Home Team and Alison Malik attended the Knowlex Conference 'Care Homes 2022 Beyond Covid' in Birmingham. Again, we showcased the great work that has been achieved through collaborative working, preventing deaths from COVID-19, providing good safe care, and enabling safe discharge plans from the acute sector.

The feedback from staff attending was fabulous, with many staff from homes that we have supported in attendance. We also met staff from other regions that are embarking on a similar IPC Care support journey, we wish them all the best and hope they experience some of the joy we have had in supporting you.



We have had the pleasure of working alongside some remarkable, caring, and compassionate staff across Birmingham's adult social care staff.

Sharing the immense improvements and the difference you have made, makes us so proud. We do hope you and your staff share that sense of pride and passion in your workplace.



Please copy and paste this link for a brief overview of the Knowlex Conference <https://youtu.be/6iuscKdxaq8>



Preparing for another Winter...



Keep communal areas clean and tidy and furnishings in a good state of repair.

All staff are aware of their responsibilities around cleaning of the environment and equipment. Cleaning schedules are

Ensure that the home is well ventilated.

All cleaning products are stored and used appropriately.

Visiting Does and Don'ts

Provide good clear information and signage at the entrance to the home.

Encourage hand hygiene for anybody entering the building. During outbreaks suggest visitors to wear face masks.

All visitors should refrain from entering the building if they are unwell, support should be offered to understand the risks.

Visitors should be encouraged to comply with any national guidance, regarding COVID-19, Influenza or Norovirus.

Further information can be found on the BCC website QR code on page 7

Staff should ensure they have completed their IPC mandatory training, including donning, and doffing of PPE.

The safe disposal of PPE prevents cross contamination, staff must have an awareness of single use items.

The use of PPE should be in accordance with national guidelines with posters or information available for staff and visitors.

Staff will follow the WHO 5 moments for hand hygiene.

Your 5 moments for hand hygiene



Safe Staffing

Staff should be supported to access all the recommended vaccine programmes.

Completing the mandatory IPC Training, if you have not completed it, ask your IPC Champion they will have access to all our training materials.

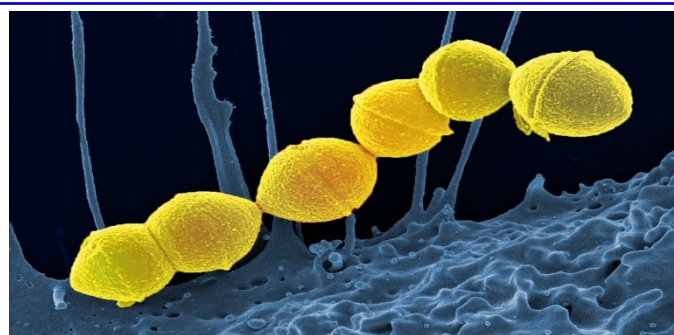
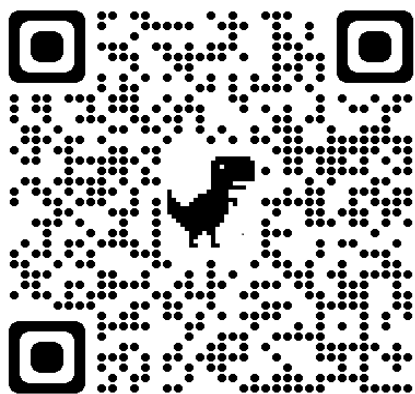
Staff have an awareness of Outbreak Management and what action to take when an infection is identified.

Staff can identify signs and symptoms of an infection and can escalate actions when required.





Making Headlines...



SCAN QR CODE WITH A SMART PHONE OR Link
<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/>

Q. What is Group A Streptococcus (GAS)?

A. It is a bacterium often found in the throat and on the skin.

Q. How is it spread?

A. It can survive in throats and on hands, allowing it to spread easily through sneezing, coughing, kissing and skin contacts.

People can carry Strep A on the skin or in the throat and have no symptoms, this is known as being colonised.

Q. What kind of illnesses are caused by Streptococcus A?

A. Most infections are relatively mild, 'strep throat' or skin infection 'impetigo'. It can however on rare occasions cause severe life-threatening diseases.

Q. What do I need to be aware of?

A. It is important to recognise the early signs and symptoms

- High fever
- Severe muscle aches
- Localised muscle aches
- Redness at the site of a wound

MOST PEOPLE WHO COME INTO CONTACT WITH **GAS** REMAIN WELL AND SYMPTOM FREE OR DEVELOP MILD THROAT OR SKIN INFECTION. CONTRACTING INVASIVE GAS DISEASE FROM A RELATIVE OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS VERY RARE.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas in the company of your friends and family and that the New Year brings you all you hope and wish for.

We look forward to continuing our program of IPC Champions and will be arranging the launch of the completed IPC Workbook that many of you helped to develop.

Keep your eyes on the BCC website for further information on training dates, workbook launch and badge collection for previous IPC Champions.

Moving Forward... What do you want to see in 2023?



Training sessions, IPC updates either face to face or online?
What do you or your team prefer?



World Hand Hygiene Day May 5th, 2023.
What can you do to celebrate, let us know if you have any 'Handy' ideas or ways to promote WHO 5 Moments



Forums or networking opportunities, time to connect with staff from other areas. Sharing best practice, seeking solutions, or simply reflecting on the health and well being of you and your staff team.

To easily access the BCC IPC Champions pages, use your smart phone camera and hover over the QR code and press the link.

