Information for providers of in-home care

This document provides information for providers of care in the home. This includes agencies, healthcare providers, volunteers and family members/carers. Care in the home includes care for people with disabilities, older persons, young children, and those requiring services such as rehabilitation or other in-home medical services. All persons providing in-home care should practice effective hand hygiene before, during and after delivering care.

Appropriate social distancing between other members of the household and carers from outside agencies or services should be maintained. This should include limiting the number of people in the room or area to those essential to care provision whilst in-home care is being undertaken by staff/volunteers from outside agencies or services.

Persons who are required to be in self-isolation due to travel interstate or overseas in the last 14 days, or who are a close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, are a COVID-19 case (not yet recovered) or who are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test, or who are experiencing fever and/or cough should not provide in-home care. Contact the care recipient’s case manager or general practitioner or the WA Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 300 243 for further advice if these restrictions may put the care recipient at risk.

Agencies and services providing care in the community should ensure that lists of clients receiving support is kept up to date. These lists should be shared with local authorities to ensure that joint plans can be created to cover care in the event of extreme staff shortages.

Agencies and services providing care should ensure adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided to all persons providing care in the home.

Care recipients who are not suspected or confirmed with COVID-19

Ensure all carers or households have access to PPE suitable for the level of care expected to be provided as per standard practice. This may include items such as disposable gloves, gowns or aprons, surgical masks and protective eyewear or visors. Appropriate PPE should be assessed on a case by case basis and should include consideration regarding the care recipient’s ability to practice respiratory and cough etiquette, and hand hygiene.

Care recipients who are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases or who are required to self-isolate

Where possible, care recipients should wear a surgical mask when carers are in the same room or area. The person providing in-home care should wear PPE in accordance with Contact and Droplet Precautions including gloves, gown/apron, surgical mask and protective eyewear when within 1.5 metres of a care recipient who cannot wear a surgical mask and when performing care activities which require contact.
Carers and others who have increased risk factors for severe COVID-19 infection (ie older age, severe and chronic health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes) should not care for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases or those required to self-isolate.

Laundry
Avoid shaking dirty laundry prior to washing. Laundry from suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases can be laundered as normal in a domestic washing machine, using an appropriate laundry detergent. Perform effective hand hygiene after handling the dirty laundry.

Waste
There are no special waste handling requirements. General waste can be bagged and placed in the general waste stream. Clinical waste is to be managed as per usual clinical waste protocols. Perform effective hand hygiene after handling general or clinical waste.

Cleaning
Cleaning of the home should be done using the usual household products, such as detergents and bleach products, including in homes of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases. Pay particular attention to all frequently touched surfaces. Perform effective hand hygiene after cleaning tasks.

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This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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