



Yenaa Housing

Infection prevention and control policy 2024



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Policy Checklist	
Date of Implementation	Feb 24
Date of Last Review	Feb 26
Date of Next Review	Feb 28

Yenaa Housing: Infection Prevention and Control Policy

1. Purpose:

This policy outlines the principles and procedures for preventing and controlling infections within Yenaa Housing properties. It aims to protect the health and safety of staff, residents, and visitors by minimising the risk of infection transmission, complying with relevant legislation and guidance, and promoting a culture of infection prevention and control.

2. Scope:

This policy applies to all Yenaa Housing staff (including permanent, temporary, and agency staff), residents, and visitors in all Yenaa Housing properties.

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework:

This policy is informed by and compliant with the following legislation and guidance:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974: Places a duty on employers to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of their employees and others who may be affected by their work activities.
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002: Requires employers to control exposure to hazardous substances, including biological agents.
- Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984: Provides powers to control infectious diseases.
- Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance: Sets out essential standards of cleanliness and infection control for health and social care providers.
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines: Provides evidence-based recommendations on infection prevention and control.
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999: Requires employers to carry out risk assessments and implement appropriate control measures.

4. Principles of Infection Prevention and Control:

Yenaa Housing is committed to the following principles:

- **Standard Precautions:** Implementing standard precautions for all residents and staff, regardless of known or suspected infection status.
- **Transmission-Based Precautions:** Implementing additional precautions when specific infections are suspected or confirmed.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Promoting and facilitating effective hand hygiene practices for all.
- **Respiratory Hygiene:** Promoting and facilitating good respiratory hygiene practices (e.g., "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it").
- **Environmental Cleaning and Decontamination:** Maintaining a clean and safe environment through regular cleaning and decontamination.
- **Waste Management:** Safe disposal of waste,

5. Responsibilities:

- **Management:** Responsible for providing resources, training, and support to implement this policy.
- **Staff:** Responsible for adhering to this policy and participating in training.
- **Residents:** Responsible for cooperating with infection control measures and informing staff of any symptoms of infection.
- **Visitors:** Responsible for adhering to infection control measures, including hand hygiene and respecting any restrictions in place.

6. Key Procedures:

6.1 Hand Hygiene:

- Staff, residents and visitors must practice frequent hand hygiene, using soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Hand hygiene should be performed:
 - Before and after contact with a resident.
 - Before and after touching a resident's surroundings.
 - Before and after preparing or eating food.
 - After using the toilet.
 - After coughing or sneezing.
 - After handling waste.
 - After removing gloves.
- Handwashing facilities with soap and water must be readily available.
- Alcohol-based hand rub must be available in convenient locations.

6.2 Respiratory Hygiene:

- Staff, residents and visitors should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Used tissues should be disposed of properly in a bin.
- Hands should be washed or cleaned with alcohol-based hand rub after coughing or sneezing.

6.3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Appropriate PPE (e.g., gloves, aprons, masks) must be worn when there is a risk of exposure to infectious agents.

6.4 Environmental Cleaning and Decontamination:

- Regular cleaning schedules must be in place for all areas, with increased frequency in high-risk areas (e.g., bathrooms, kitchens).
- Appropriate cleaning products and disinfectants must be used according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Spills of blood or body fluids must be cleaned up immediately using appropriate procedures and disinfectants.

6.5 Outbreak Management:

- An outbreak management plan must be in place to deal with outbreaks of infectious diseases.
- The plan should include procedures for:
 - Identifying and reporting outbreaks.
 - Implementing control measures to prevent further spread.
 - Communicating with residents, staff, and relevant authorities.

7. Training:

- All staff will receive mandatory training on infection prevention and control upon induction and regularly thereafter.
 - Training will cover:
 - Principles of infection prevention and control.
 - Hand hygiene techniques.
 - Use of PPE.
 - Cleaning and decontamination procedures.
 - Waste management.
 - Outbreak management.
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