

Dear Care Home Manager,

European Antibiotic Awareness Day / World Antibiotic Week

This year during World Antibiotic Awareness Week (13-19 November), Health & Local authorities across Berkshire are uniting to promote good hand hygiene.

You will have recently received a Winter Readiness Information pack from colleagues in Public Health England South East, this contains information on how to prevent, control and report infectious disease outbreaks such as norovirus and flu, which as well as making residents unwell, staff absence and anxiety during the winter months.

As you know good hand hygiene is one of the most important things we can do to prevent the spread of all types of infection and this year local councils, NHS organisations and Public Health England South East are coming together to promote hand hygiene as part of the wider Keep Antibiotics Working campaign.

Please help to raise awareness of the importance of hand washing to prevent infection by including the following key messages in communications to your residents and your staff;

Washing hands properly (for at least 30 seconds), especially after using the toilet and before eating is the single best way to prevent the spread of infections and to keep your residents and your staff safe from infection & illness.

Fewer infections means less need to use antibiotics, helping to prevent bugs becoming resistant and preserving antibiotics for when they are needed.

Everyone has a role to play and residential care providers across Berkshire are urged to encourage staff to become Antibiotic Guardians by taking a pledge to always wash their hands at www.antibioticguardian.com

Additional resources to help you support the campaign

[Posters and leaflets](#)

[Toolkit for professionals](#)

[Antibiotic Guardian Quiz](#)



Yours sincerely



Sanjay Desai (Chair) On behalf of the Berkshire Antimicrobial Stewardship Group (A multi-disciplinary group of health professionals and lay members representing a wide range of health and social care organisations within Berkshire)