Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance:
What should I do if I am providing care to residents within their own home?

This guidance is intended for frontline staff who are supporting residents, in a social work or home care capacity.

WHEN TO USE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Not everyone will need to wear PPE all the time when carrying out their usual duties – it is only when the person they are providing close-contact personal care to has symptoms of Covid-19 that they should use PPE. It is, however, important to use your standard universal infection control measures when carrying out your usual duties, such as gloves and aprons for dealing with bodily waste.

PPE should be worn by any members of the workforce (e.g. Health, social care, children’s services, voluntary and community care services) providing personal direct care to individuals, whether in a residential care setting, supported living setting or in their own family residence, when the person receiving care is symptomatic of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

PERSONAL DIRECT CARE INCLUDES

- Touching
- Providing help with personal hygiene such as washing and toileting
- Cleaning away waste products such as tissues, crockery and cutlery
- Any care that has to be provided in close proximity to the individual being cared for (less than 6 feet / 2 metres away)

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IS

- Disposable apron
- Disposable gloves
- Fluid repellant mask
- Eye protection if any risk of splashing (sneezing, spitting etc)

NEW PPE MUST BE USED FOR EACH EPISODE OF CARE AND STORED SECURELY WITHIN DISPOSABLE RUBBISH BAGS. These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste within the room. This should be put aside for 72 hours before being disposed of as normal.

YOU MUST:

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and warm water before and after providing the care. Hand hygiene must be performed after any activity that potentially results in hands becoming contaminated, including removal of PPE, equipment decontamination and waste handling.
- Hand sanitiser can be used as an alternative to soap and water if not available.

For more information, search:
"gov.uk guidance on home care provision"
"gov.uk statutory guidance schools"