Community IPC Update

Respiratory infection activity and actions for GP practices and care homes

Update to 16 November 2026



Current respiratory infection picture

1 October to 16 November 2026

5

COVID-19

2

Flu

1

Other respiratory infection

These infections have been responsible for outbreaks in Barnsley care homes.

Figures reflect the supplied Community IPC update.

A marked increase compared with last quarter

Last quarter	Current period
3	8
respiratory infections identified as outbreak causes	reported outbreak causes

The supplied figures indicate more than double the number reported across the whole previous quarter.

Respiratory infections are circulating across the wider community. GP practices and care homes should reinforce routine controls now.

Act early • protect staff • reduce transmission

Protecting GP staff and patients

Five practical controls to reinforce

1. Offer and promote annual flu vaccination
2. Use telephone triage for respiratory symptoms
3. Apply appropriate PPE, including masks
4. Maintain good hand hygiene
5. Decontaminate the environment effectively

Use local risk assessment and current organisational IPC policy when selecting PPE.

Supporting earlier outbreak identification

One nasal swab

provides results for Influenza A, Influenza B and COVID-19

Care-home use

the programme supplies LFD tests to care homes

Early identification

supports prompt recognition of respiratory outbreaks



Using the tests correctly

5

Test a maximum of 5 residents

Use resident testing to support outbreak assessment.

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Not for staff testing

Staff should follow current occupational health and organisational guidance.

Reporting results and maintaining supply

Results must be logged on the outbreak reporting system.

1

Test

Up to five residents

2

Record

Enter results promptly

3

Replenish

Logging supports replacement swab supply

Early identification + prompt reporting = stronger outbreak response