

Safe Management of Laundry¹

- Any towels or other laundry used by a symptomatic individual should be treated as infectious and placed in a red alginate bag. This should then be removed from the isolation room and immediately placed into a secondary clear bag. This second bag must not have been taken into the room.
- Place this bag directly into the laundry hamper/bag. Take the laundry hamper as close to the point of use as possible, but do not take it inside the isolation room.

When handling linen do not:

- Rinse, shake or sort linen on removal from beds.
- Place used/infectious linen on the floor or any other surface e.g. table top.
- Re-handle used/infectious linen when bagged.
- Overfill laundry receptacles; or
- Place inappropriate items in the laundry receptacle.

Staff Uniforms²

- Staff should not travel to and from work in their uniforms.
- Staff should be provided with enough uniforms to wear a clean complete uniform every day.
- Staff should have a spare uniform in case it becomes contaminated during the day.
- Uniform policies should support good hand hygiene and staff should be bare below the elbow (BBE) this means no stoned rings, watches, bracelets.
- Uniforms should be transported home in a plastic bag which is disposed of. If you have several uniforms they can be all washed together.
- Uniforms should be laundered separately from other household linen, in a load not more than half the machine capacity.
- Uniforms should be able to withstand laundering at temperatures of at least 60°³
- Uniforms may be tumbled dried and ironed with the rest of the household laundry as correct washing will remove any infectious microorganisms on the laundry.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880274/Admission_and_Care_of_Residents_during_COVID-19_Incident_in_a_Care_Home.pdf

² <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/rcn-uniform-and-workwear-guidance-covid-19-uk-pub-009245>