

Infection Prevention in extreme hot weather conditions.

We appreciate how uncomfortable working in very hot weather can be and encourage all staff to take as many precautions as possible to stay safe during this time and to keep an eye out for others more vulnerable than themselves.

However, we cannot afford to let our good practice around PPE fall away in the heat. Currently we are experiencing an increase in cases of COVID19 so it is essential to remain vigilant. It is still necessary to follow the advice about use of face coverings when providing close personal care, and in settings with COVID 19 positive cases. To ease the discomfort of the face covering, it is advised that you take regular drinks breaks to ensure that you remain hydrated. Where possible take these breaks outside and maintain social distance.

Opening windows is a great source of ventilation and should be encouraged. Keeping the curtains closed does provide shade and keep the room cooler. The use of electric fans can be used as normal in homes not in COVID19 outbreak status, providing there are no other infections around (ie C Diff) but use of electric fans should be risk assessed in very hot weather in settings with a COVID 19 outbreak.

Remember that fans are very good at accumulating dust and so need to be kept clean.

Additional useful information about use of fans can be found here

[Portable-fans-June-2021-1.pdf \(infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk\)](#)

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