

Respiratory Symptom Screening Questions: Aide for Health and Social Care Settings

The process of respiratory symptom assessment will vary dependent on both the health and social care facility and the type of service provision but wherever possible, the respiratory symptom assessment questions should be completed by telephone before the arranged arrival at the facility for all service users and any accompanying carers. If this is not possible, then these questions should be asked on arrival.

These questions will help inform the clinical/care team of the service user respiratory status and potential associated risk before face-to-face care delivery. For those receiving care and support in their own home, the service user should be reminded to let staff know in advance of any visit if they have any symptoms.

If the respiratory symptom assessment is completed before arrival at the health and social care facility, and if the service user answers 'no' to all the respiratory symptom assessment questions, the service user should be reminded to tell a staff member if any symptoms develop before they attend the facility.

The questions below help to inform the clinical/care team of the service users' respiratory status and potential associated IPC risk. These are examples that can be used to guide clinical management.

General respiratory screening questions

Do you have any of the following symptoms?

- high temperature or fever
- new, continuous cough
- a loss or alteration to taste or smell
- any other symptoms of a respiratory virus
- any positive tests for respiratory infection within the last 7 days

If the individual answers **yes**, and if the admission is deemed urgent/necessary, a risk assessment should be undertaken to assess the urgency and complexity of the admission.

- Proceed with Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs).
- Obtain appropriate diagnostic laboratory samples for suspected respiratory infections.

If the individual answers '**no**', Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) are adequate provided there are no other known or suspected pathogens requiring application of Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs).