

Infection Prevention and Management in Gloucestershire



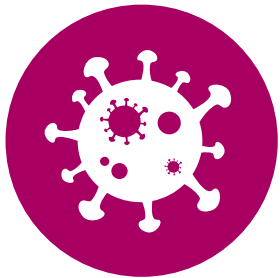
What is infection prevention and management (IPM)?

IPM is all about preventing infections and treating them more effectively when they do happen.

We do this with things like vaccinations, diagnosing infections and using antibiotics appropriately.

We also try to prevent and control the spread of infections in places like hospitals, care homes and in the community.

This is important because:



Infection causes 7% of all deaths in the UK every year, as well as causing disability and harming wellbeing



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing problem where bugs such as bacteria adapt and find ways to survive treatment with antibiotics.

Without action to reduce AMR this will cause 10 million deaths every year by 2050. More information on AMR can be found here: [JSNA Gloucestershire](#)



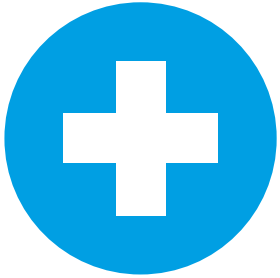
Some people are more likely to develop infections and less likely to make a good recovery because of unfair and avoidable differences in health, known as **Health Inequalities** - which are unfair and avoidable differences in health outcomes



There's a lot we can do to **prevent** and better **manage** infection to improve people's health and wellbeing



What are we doing about this?



- Health and care professionals including doctors and nurses are working together as an Infection Prevention and Management group to better prevent and treat infections in Gloucestershire.
- An action plan (2025-2030) has been developed that looks at key priorities for reducing infections and infection related harm.

What does the action plan include?

This includes a range of different activities and objectives, such as:

- Supporting vaccination uptake across the county
- Ensuring antibiotics are used safely and effectively to treat infections where needed
- Planning and preparing for any future outbreaks of infection and/or pandemics
- Supporting people with infections like HIV, TB, hepatitis C and infections of the skin
- Working with different groups and settings (like care homes and hospitals) to support and improve prevention of infection.
- Learning from what works and what doesn't work in Gloucestershire to prevent and manage infections
- Using data and listening to our communities to better understand who is affected by infections, and where we need to act.



An action plan (2025-2030) has been developed that looks at key priorities for reducing harm from infection, including inequalities.

What can you do?

- Commit to safely using antibiotics to reduce the risk of AMR by becoming an antibiotic guardian: [Antibiotic Guardian – Pledge to be an Antibiotic Guardian](#)
- Have positive conversations around vaccination [How to talk about vaccines](#)
- Become an e-bug community educator to help teach and support young people about how to prevent infections: [Beat the Bugs](#)
- Know your HIV status [Home - FDOH](#)

Reduce the risk of spreading infection when you're sick through:

- Staying up to date with vaccinations
- Washing your hands [How to wash your hands - NHS](#)
- Remember to 'catch it bin it kill' when you cough or sneeze [Respiratory-and-cough-hygiene-poster-April-2023.pdf](#)
- Reducing contact with others, particularly vulnerable people when you're poorly with an infection.



**BECOME AN
ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN**

Keep Antibiotics Working



e-Bug

This document has been developed in collaboration with the UK Health Security Agency.