**Learning Disability COVID-19 symptom presentation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COVID Symptom and common presentation in LD:** | **Differential diagnosis and tools and considerations:** |
| **Fever (body temperature 37.8 degrees or higher):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Hot chest or back | 2. Person looks hot, flushed and sweaty |
| 3. Person is shivery | 4. **Changes in behaviour**, ie taking clothes off to cool down |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Other infection - UTI | 2. Other respiratory condition |
| 3. Sepsis | 4. Dehydration |

 |
| **Persistent Cough**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. New Cough - Coughing for 1hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24hrs |
| 2. Existing Cough - May have an increase in length of coughing |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Other infection - UTI | 2. Other respiratory condition |
| 3. Sepsis | 4. Dehydration |

 |
| **Sensory changes (taste/smell):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Loss of appetite | 2. Weight Loss |
| 3. **Fatigue** | 4. Dislike of usual favourite foods/smells/fabric items  |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Dysphagia | 2. Cold/Flu |
| **Offer favourite food/item** |

 |
| **Aches and pains:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Becomes withdrawn | 2. **Change in behaviour** |
| 3. Increase in distress/behaviour | 4. Hitting/holding specific part of body |
| 5. Verbal/Non-verbal communication | 6. Becoming upset, crying, whimpering |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Other infection – viral | 2. Falls/fracture |
| 3. Dental Pain | 4. Menstrual pain |
| 5. Stomach/chest pain | **Use DisDat tool/pain scale** |

 |
| **Breathing difficulties:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Chest Retractions | 2. Wheezing | 3. Shortness of breath |
| 4. increased breathing rate | 5. Cyanosis | 6. Grunting |
| 6. Nose flaring | 7. Sweating  | 8. Prominent muscles when breathing |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Allergies | 2. Asthma |
| 3. Cardiac health **(999)** | 4. COPD |
| 5. Hypo/Hyperthyroidism | **Check Posture/positioning** |
| **Check O2 Levels (SATs probe)** |

 |
| **Sore throat:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Loss of appetite** | 3. Reluctance to eat |
| 3. Swollen glands | 4.Verbal/Non-verbal communication of pain **(See Aches and pains)** |
| 4. Weight loss | 6. Change in behaviour/increase in behaviour that challenges |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Cough/Cold | 2. Laryngitis |
| 3. Epiglottitis | 4. Oral Thrush |
| 5. Dehydration |  |

 |
| **Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting (not common):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Loss of appetite** | 2. **Fatigue** |
|  |  |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Food poisoning | 2. Seasonal bug |
| 3. Constipation | 4. Dehydration |
| **Monitor Bowels – Bristol Stool Chart** |

 |
| **Dizziness, drowsiness, decrease in alertness:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Unsteady on feet | 2. Increased falls |
| 3. Confusion | 4. **Fatigue** |
| 5. New neurological symptoms - seizures |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Blood pressure | 2. Diabetes |
| 3. Medication side effect | 4. Dehydration |
| 5. Other infection | 6. Hypo/Hyperthyroidism |

 |
| **Rash:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Early Symptom | 2. Could be ‘mottled’ |
|  |  |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Allergies | 2. Heat |
| 3. Medication side effect | 4. Eczema |
| 5. Dermatitis | 6. Other infection - meningitis |

 |