

31/12/2020

Took part in a supportive group teams meeting with members of the Health protection team led by Helen Corrigan

Advised that anything discussed in the meeting relating to specific care homes was confidential and not to be shared outside the meeting.

Updates/ messages provided:

Night Staff- ensure night staff are following the same IPC guidelines as all other staff. Need to ensure all staff are trained in IP&C - hand washing, masks, social distancing etc. Managers should make sure that **ALL** care staff on the premises are adhering to enhanced precautions. Masks should be worn sessionally, even when not within 2 M of another person, and all surfaces such as staff desks, keyboards and phones should be disinfected between uses.

PPE- All staff should be adhering to basic principles as laid out at the beginning of the pandemic, sessional use of masks, appropriate use of gloves and aprons, handwashing and correct donning and doffing - observe staff and re enforce good practice.

Isolation period- for residents returning from hospital, being admitted to a care home or who have tested positive for COVID 19 remains 14 days. This has come from SAGE for Care homes.

Testing staff with symptoms- staff with symptoms, or their family members should always be tested through the NHS Grampian COVID testing website – covid19.nhsgrampian.org NOT through 111 or by using swabs supplied to the care home for asymptomatic staff testing.

Weekly testing = Please review technique and process that is being carried out by staff for weekly PCR surveillance. **Make sure that staff are opening up the link in text message sent to get results back. Health Protection is aware when and whom has and has not accessed results.**

Covid Vaccine – Can we still carry out weekly staff testing post covid vaccine or will it give a false positive. Helen Corrigan advised yes as long as staff are asymptomatic at time of testing. Staff whom are delivering the vaccine should also be providing advice re staff testing post vaccine. Guidance will be sent out on Fridays Bulletin also from HP in form of Green Book and Pfizer Biontech Covid-19 Vaccine.

Lateral flow test –Tests are designed for asymptomatic testing and is not an accurate test for any one with symptoms- do not use for staff, relatives or residents with symptoms.

Discussion points

Lateral flow testing for staff- New Government initiative- staff to have LFT twice a week. There are some concerns about how this will work- staff are being asked to organise and carry out these themselves but it may prove challenging for many staff

members. The online training provided is not very helpful. Advised to raise concerns with Scottish Care and the Government. Discussions to carry on this week with care homes at meetings re potential ways that this process to become more manageable.

Shared Good news

Care home had a Michael Buble tribute singer come outside to home and perform all enjoyed by residents and staff.

Happy new Year and everyone keep going and take care.

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