

Weekly Support Group teams Meeting w/e 08/01/2021

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:

Cleaning and disinfecting- reminded that all high touch surfaces should be cleaned with general purpose detergent and then disinfected. The solution for disinfection should be 1000 parts per million available chlorine (3 tablets per litre Ahticlor) - no other concentration is suitable. Guidance states that a combined product for cleaning and disinfecting may be used if available, as long as it contains 1000 parts per million available chlorine. Disinfectant wipes are acceptable for use between uses on staff desks, phones, keyboards and other surfaces used by staff.

Lockdown visiting- no change in visiting guidance, remains as for level 4- essential bedside visits, window visits and outdoor visits, with one visitor allowed- see guidance available on NHS inform. Outdoor visiting pods can be used. No children allowed.

Shielding- shielding has been re-introduced, now in effect. Those required to shield will receive a letter from the Government advising them of this. GP may also sign off for a period of time. Further information is available at NHS Inform.

Night Staff and IPC for all - 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 – supervise staff practice. No cardigans to be worn when attending to residents and wash same as uniform. Managers, be good role models and show leadership, particularly with your dress code. Cohort staff – work in 1 area, don't move them day to day.

Masks- Masks should be changed after being in a room with a resident with confirmed or suspected COVID. All PPE must be doffed. After carrying out personal care for **any** resident and, if the mask is touched or becomes wet. Sessional masks can be worn when not giving direct personal care for example, dispensing medications. See update guidelines care homes 31/12/2020, points 4 & 5

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.

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.

Self Swabbing- Please ensure that if staff are self swabbing, they carry this out correctly so they will get an accurate result- it has been found that many people's technique is poor, so those with COVID may be missed.

Vaccinations – going with the guidance, over the 12 weeks. List being collated regarding who has missed the first dose.

Discussion points

Further input regarding PPE, a separate session was requested and HPT will look into this.

Care homes who do not attend the weekly huddle meeting with Health Protection who have asymptomatic staff and residents will not be given a call back by HPT as of Monday 11th January 2020.

Further discussion re how HPT team can manage the volume of calls regarding test result to be discussed further next week

Aprons – Flat packs have supplied to the care homes, but are causing concern for cross contamination (falling on the floor etc, hanging on bathroom rails) regarding dispersing these throughout the care premises. Discuss with your suppliers preferable role dispensers.

Visors – staff using reusable visors make sure they are cleaned and put into a lidded container. So no environmental contamination can be made.

Smoking Cessation Advice links-

<http://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/helplines/quit-your-way-scotland>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/stopping-smoking>