

Bulletin for Care Home Meetings starting 1.02.2021

Points shared and discussed today -

COVID Vaccine and residents: many residents have now received the vaccine, others that have been missed will be vaccinated shortly. Enclosed is guidance and FAQ's

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-guidance-for-health-and-social-care-professionals/>

Any new staff or staff who have not have their Covid vaccine, the managers should inform the vaccination team to arrange see link

<https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/information-for-nhs-grampian-staff/subpages/covid-19-vaccination/>

Testing – Reminded to be vigilant to any residents displaying any sign of being unwell e.g. more lethargic than normal, mild fever, and episode of diarrhoea isolate immediately and test using the NHSG swab and NHSG lab chit.

Lateral flow testing – To clarify, to dispose of test kits, for positive test results only, to double bag, then dispose after 72 hours in household waste. DO NOT USE if anyone is symptomatic. To find in Guidance for Domiciliary Care publication date 20 August 2020 since updated

Staff with symptoms – any family members should always be tested through the NHS Grampian COVID testing website – covid19.nhsgrampian.org.

Symptomatic staff DO NOT ATTEND WORK. No LFT's, no testing in the workplace, they should be sent home immediately to isolate, and self-refer by using the online form.

Cohorting staff – Just a reminder this is important to have staff work together in teams, working within the same units. Caring for the same residents. This will minimise the risks of transmission, in doing so, your staff who could bring the spread of the infection into your premise. HPT strongly advise you think around how you can do this logistically. To plan the layout of your work areas, contact HPT if need to discuss further.

The migration of asymptomatic surveillance testing to regional hub – Good feed back today from Care homes although there are still some issues, advised to contact directly for any queries see links:

Gram.staffcovid19testing@nhs.scot or nns.nationallabsprogramme@nhs.scot

Staff rooms – hanging coats up, some suggestions are if hanging up, to make sure coats do not touch other coats, boxes with lids to cover, have been used and when staff member leaves at the end of the shift it is cleaned down. Also some area's are using the dry cleaning covers and again wiped down

Night staff – Reminder to all Manager's the night staff have still been highlighted as one of the main sources of Outbreaks. To ensure that all staff are trained in IP & C measures, hand washing, masks, social distancing, and cleaning high touch work areas.

Cleaning and disinfecting – discussed at length, reminded this is not new guidance. The use of solution for the purpose of disinfection which as per guidance, should be 1000 parts per million available chlorine – no other concentration is suitable. To follow the manufacturer's instruction.

Hand Care – Reminder to look after hands as the weather is much colder, it is important to take care of your hands, wearing well fitted Nitrile gloves at work. And also using hand cream at break times, at the end of your shift. And wearing Gloves when outside in the colder days.

Social media – Reminder from HPT, to advice staff not to put details on social media, this has a knock on effect on relatives who are not able to see family and friends in the care homes. The relatives have reported to HPT and other agencies, given concerns they are seeing staff out socialising with other staff or friends. Just a reminder that we are all in tier 4 so no one should be out socialising.

Outbreak Experience – Management meeting has been planned, for this Friday 5th February 2021 at 14.30 three managers have agreed to share their experiences when they have had Outbreaks of Covid in their Care homes.