

## Care Homes Bulletin for week beginning 15/2/21

### Updates/ messages:

**Cohorting Staff – This is recommended in all care homes.** Cohorting means that the same staff work together in teams and work with the same residents/ in the same units/areas. This approach prevents spread beyond any area with infection.

**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 (particularly during breaks) etc. Managers should make sure that **ALL** care staff on the premises are adhering to enhanced precautions – supervise staff practice.

**Lateral flow testing** –Tests are designed for asymptomatic testing and are not an accurate test for any one with symptoms-DO NOT USE FOR STAFF, RELATIVES OR RESIDENTS WITH SYMPTOMS. If a staff member becomes symptomatic after a negative LFT they should isolate and get a PCR test through [covid19.nhsgrampian.org](https://covid19.nhsgrampian.org)

Used LFD's in care homes should be disposed of in a new waste stream- 'chemical waste'. Managers should speak to their waste contractor to organise this. Further information is available at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-care-home-visitor-testing-guidance/>

Relevant section is attached to this bulletin.

Unused Lighthouse testing swabs may also be disposed of in the chemical waste stream.

**Testing symptomatic residents-** please ensure that you fill in the resident's details on the swab container, and fill in the lab chit correctly. If you fail to do this, the lab WILL NOT test the sample and you will have to carry out the test again. Lab chit and picture of correctly filled in swab container are attached.

A video with full instructions can be viewed here:

<https://vimeo.com/409481946>

**COVID Vaccine-** Second vaccines for residents should be in progress. Sometimes homes may be offered 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccines at short notice if there is surplus vaccine available in the community. Managers are encouraged to accept vaccines at short notice if offered.

Staff uptake of vaccine has been low for some groups of staff. Managers are asked to encourage staff to accept the vaccine- reliable information on safety is available through various channels such as The Green Book. Please send any concerns, questions or ideas to improve uptake to [gram.healthprotection@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.healthprotection@nhs.scot). HPT will try to source further information to reassure staff and encourage uptake.

**Staff weekly surveillance testing through regional testing hub- DO NOT USE STAFF TEST SWABS FOR RESIDENTS.**

All staff should receive notification of test results. If a member of staff does not receive their result within 48 hours they must get in touch with the testing team via the support function on the testing portal [www.covidtestingportal.scot](http://www.covidtestingportal.scot) or call 0800 008 6587

**Handcare-** staff are encouraged to use moisturisers and emollients to help maintain good hand condition – further hand care tips are attached.

**Cleaning and de-cluttering** – have a good look at communal areas and remove unnecessary soft furnishings and clutter. Please check staff including domestics, kitchen, Carers, Nurses, are doing what they have been tasked/advised to do – ensure that cleaning schedules and NIPCM addendum guidance is being adhered to.

Recent inspection visits have found the presence of ingrained dirt on various surfaces causing IPC concerns and opportunities for viral transmission. Managers are encouraged to have a walk round the home and inspect the following for cleanliness, and to act on substandard findings:

- Sluice – reusable bed pans and commodes
- Toilets- underneath lids and bowl rims
- Undersides of furniture such as dining tables and beds and chairs
- Skirting boards
- Care equipment/hoists/Machines
- Staff areas – chairs, tables, equipment

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Attachments: Lab chit, swab picture, Visitor testing FAQ's, Hand care guidance.

