

Care home weekly Bulletin week starting 22nd February 2021

Active Outbreaks – case rate per 100 000 falling in Grampian. Immunisation rates are good and death rates are falling.

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 on a longer term basis. This approach prevents spread of infection beyond any area and it is making a difference. Make sure your staff understand the rationale and how to cohort.

Night Staff – make sure staff are all doing the same, following the same IPC guidelines and receive the same level of support as all other staff. Need to ensure all staff are trained in IP&C - hand washing, masks, social distancing (particularly during breaks) etc. Some care homes are checking all staff donning and doffing PPE at the start of each shift – night and day. **Hand gels are not effective against all pathogens.**

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 LFD they should isolate and get a PCR test through covid19.nhsgrampian.org

LFD Testing Contractors – if they are going to several facilities in 1 day they don't need to be re-tested several times. They can have 1 test on the day, take a picture of test result as proof. A link with a table re testing will be provided in the weekly bulletin.

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/>

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 were attached in last week's bulletin. If you don't have the chit contact HPT.

COVID Vaccine- Second vaccines for residents may already have been done or, very soon. Sometimes homes may be offered 2nd vaccines at short notice if there is surplus vaccine available in the community. Managers are encouraged to accept vaccines at short notice if offered.

Managers are asked to make staff aware that the HPT are arranging a Q&A session regarding the covid vaccine with Katrina Morrison, Lead Immunisation Nurse which we are awaiting a date. This will be recorded for those unable to attend the webinar. If you have any questions or experiences you would like to share within this forum please send to the Health Protection Team to gram.healthprotection@nhs.scot for the attention of Rhona Kirkham. The Green Book can also be accessed by all staff with questions.

Staff Weekly Surveillance Testing via Regional Testing Hub- DO NOT USE STAFF TEST SWABS FOR RESIDENTS. They go to different labs. Swabs are safe enough to be collected the following day and don't need to be refrigerated. All staff should receive notification of test results – some homes have reported receiving their results within 3 – 4 hours from collection. 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 or call 0800 008 6587.

Handcare- staff are encouraged to use moisturisers and emollients to help maintain good hand condition. Look after your hands.

Online Donning & Doffing Training – see dates at end please

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

Visiting guidance – HPT has received new the visiting guidance “Open with Care” . Go to open Q&A sessions. Re 2 visits per week – take your time, risk assess and, if you judge it safe, it has to be what you're comfortable with. **Expert advice noted on the new guidance re visiting is now from the Wider Partnership including HPT. New admissions can also receive visits whilst self isolating.**

There have been 2 documentations circling from Enable Safe Care. This is a relatives group – **stick with official guidance please.**

Good News Shared – Resident has a birthday today and enjoying a window visit.

Latest Care home Visiting Guidance FAQs can be found here [scotgov open with care FAQs](#)

Open with Care – supporting meaningful contact in care homes –workshops

17th Feb – 1-2pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

19th Feb – 1-2pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

22nd Feb 4-5pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

26th Feb 10-11am – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

1st March 3-4pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

4th March 4-5pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

8th March 4-5pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

12th March 10-11am - [Click here to join the meeting](#)

15th March 4-5pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

19th March 1-2pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)