

## **Weekly Care Home Meeting w/week commence 29/03/2021**

**Easter gifts:** Lynn acknowledge that part of the joy and experience of giving a gift such as an easter egg or flowers is seeing the recipient's joy. With this in mind please encourage visitors to take in gifts in advance of visit so that these items can be quarantined before giving them out at a visit.

**Visiting:** those present shared their experiences around re opening their doors to visitors indoors in line with Open with Care guidance national household guidance.

Q – How long can visitors come in to Care home visit a loved one. JS read the guidance from open with care document 3.3 no specific time applies should be risk assessed by care home and what home can manage in terms of staffing and ability to carry out current control measures in place also. Can children visit outdoors was also discussed = JS discussed yes children can visit and outside visits are the same as household guidance to follow. Refer to Open with Care Document FAQ 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**LFD test duration:** It was noted that the dwell time of 30 minutes is actually quite a long time for visitors to be waiting outside before their visit and the control line generally appears around 15 minutes. Not all LFD test kits are the same please follow manufacturer instruction. Issues raised re results not being logged on to the Portal. PG advised to contact portal regarding this as HP have no involvement with the portal.

**Taking residents out in cars:** Whilst "Open with Care" refers to "trips out with care home initially, trips out with one designated visitor in the care and avoiding outdoor spaces..."P15, we are not at the stage yet and HPT Grampian team advise this is too risky currently and not in line with national general household guidance.

**Vaccine and Immunity:** The vaccine does not guarantee full immunity and people who have been vaccinated can still contract and transmit the virus. The vaccine has been found to be effective at preventing serious illness from COVID19 but it can still spread so it is very important that we keep up the robust IPC measures we have in place. Make sure all new staff when arranging appointment clarify they are care staff, reports have come back of new staff being refused the vaccine as their criteria has not met the current vaccination Government guidance.

**Hairdressers** If employed by the home and solely works in that home and NO where else then they can operate with the appropriate PPE as though giving personal care and should have twice weekly LFT testing. If hairdresser comes in and goes to other

homes then adhere to guidance – no visiting at the moment-further guidance should be coming out soon.

**IPC training from the Health Protection Team:** Lynn raised that the HPT team would like to trial short, possibly 15-30 minute bite sized, remote training sessions with care home staff and invited those present to have a think about any topics or themes they think staff i.e. donning & doffing, blood spillage kits, laundry.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April public holiday** – same service as a weekend on call via ARI switchboard, ask for first Public health on call

**Happy Easter enjoy your weekend**