

Grampian Health Protection Team Weekly Bulletin – Care Homes

Week beginning 12/04/21

Visiting: those present shared their experiences around re opening their doors to visitors indoors in line with Open with Care guidance national household guidance. One commented that they had deployed staff who are assigned solely to support visiting – it is estimated that each visit requires 45 minutes of staff support. This home manager shared that these staff were in addition to their normal staffing as they were able to apply for support and funding for this via their Care Home Managers Forum.

Trips out in designated visitor's car: In addition to Scottish Government [Advice on how to travel safely \(transport.gov.scot\)](#) Care homes are encouraged to risk assess each request and consider the following in doing so:-

- Take the time to explain to the visitor the why's of what safety measures are in place so that perhaps their understanding will help with compliance along with the following guidance
- Ensure the driver is familiar with what is expected of them regards responsibility for ensuring safety of themselves and resident, understands why a FRSM is indicated and hand hygiene before and after application, understands that touch points such as door handles, seat belts need cleaned before and after and has access to hand sanitiser etc
- Agree timescales of outing (start time/expected return time, duration, destination) and ensure outings are pre arranged and planned for make sure you have an up to date contact number for the escorting visitor
- Do have a nice time, you can drive to somewhere scenic, park up and enjoy the great outdoors
- Don't go to crowded places where 2 metre distancing can't be observed
- Don't visit an indoor places such as a café or another household e.g. a family or friend indoors/outdoors
- Normal checks eg health screen and offer LFD
- The driver (a designated visitor and one other passenger (the resident only)
- Encourage resident to use toilet before departure
- Resident as well as driver could be offered FRSM to wear (perhaps supply a few in a poly bag so that any breaches such as touching the mask can be planned for)

Outdoor/garden visits: Please continue with up to 4 adults from 2 households just now. The resident would be classed as one household.

Changes to LFD testing; NHS NES recently circulated guidance around updates to the following topics; please (see attached) to find out more on:-

- Changes to the name and hours of the Testing helpline
- Updated Guidance on Management of Waste from LFD testing
- Bulk Uploads for Lateral Flow Device tests on the Covid testing and registration system
- Huddle tool - reported LFD results
- Logging of Lateral Flow Results
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Training for care home staff: The care home managers are invited to present any topics or themes they think staff i.e. infection control manual, quizzes, scenario's. Any suggestions please email gram.healthprotection@nhs.scot – Lynn Byers, Rhona Kirkham and Jenni Strachan.

Feedback on weekly Teams meets The HPT invited meeting attendees to comment on their experience of this weekly occurring meeting. Those present expressed that they value these meetings and would wish them to continue. Again please email us if you have any suggestions around the Teams meetings.

New guidance issued 14th April by Scot Gov [Open for Care - Visiting health, social care and other services in care homes and communal activity](#) which gives further guidance on further relaxations alluding to **hairdressers**; The HPT advise the following is risk assessed and considered in this regard:-

- Hairdressers can work between care settings
- Manager must be confident hairdresser is competent in don and doff technique and hand hygiene <http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/chapter-1-standard-infection-control-precautions-sicps/#a1069>
- Twice weekly LFD indicated for visiting hairdressers but not mandatory
- Must change FRSM between clients
- Resident could be offered FRSM also, if tolerated
- Room should be well ventilated
- Chair, mirror and other touch points e.g. door handles, sinks, taps should be cleaned and disinfected between use – it is expected that given the time to do that this will mean allowing 15 minute intervals between clients
- Assign responsibility for cleaning and disinfecting between clients and ensure whomever is assigned to this task, for example hairdresser, knows which products to use cleaning protocol, apply, contact time and has a to follow

IPC Listening to Staff Webinars - Materials now available on Turas NHS Education for Scotland, ARHAI Scotland and the Scottish Government invited all those working in health and social care settings to attend a FREE webinar on “Infection Prevention and Control during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Supporting, Valuing and Listening to Health and Social Care Workers” in March 2021.

The two webinars gave staff the opportunity to put any concerns and questions to a panel of clinical experts and frontline staff. They provided the latest information on infection prevention and control measures and the scientific base that underpins them. Experts shared intelligence on the routes of transmission, including the new variants of COVID-19, and highlighted how different interventions prevent transmission.

Staff unable to attend a live webinar can now access a recording and all the resources on our Turas page: [Protecting yourself and your workplace environment | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#)

Norovirus: It was noted that there has been an outbreak of this in a care home recently in Grampian and HPT wanted to re-iterate the message that whilst we need to remain vigilant to covid that there are other infectious diseases circulating in the community. Certainly test for covid but if this occurs look to obtaining stool sample for virology and bacteriology. Also reminded that for hand hygiene to be effective against norovirus liquid soap and warm running water should be used.

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