

Grampian Health Protection Team Weekly Bulletin – Care Homes

Week beginning 19/04/21

Open with Care: It was highlighted that further supplementary guidance was published on 19th of April. This can be found via this link <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-care-homes-visiting-guidance/>

Care home staff and contacts: If a staff member has a dependant child who is identified as a close contact – the care home staff member does not need to isolate with the child unless, of course, the child, them self, or other household member becomes symptomatic or is identified by test and protect as a close contact of an index case. Therefore if the child is cared for by another parent or guardian then the staff member can attend work.

Indoor visiting: AB advised that only one designated visitor should visit the same resident at a time at the moment.

Trips out in designated visitor's car: Some of those present shared happy experiences for residents going out in the car or socially distanced on the home bus.

Visitor aide memoire: See attached – it is thought this will help visitors comply with safety measures in place. HPT do acknowledge that this illustrates the need for 2m physical distancing from residents but Open with Care encourages therapeutic touch between the designated visitor and the resident. That said hugs should be brief if not an essential visit and social distancing should be maintained outwith this scenario.

Overnight stays: Are residents allowed an overnight stay? No, please delay this at the moment for Care home residents whilst still in tier 4. HPT NHSG will continue to review this.

Well being presentation from Care UK: AB highlighted the importance of looking after yourselves and will share this when it becomes available.

New guidance for other Care settings: For care settings other than Older Adult Care homes there is new guidance which replaces previous domiciliary guidance:- [COVID-19 - information and guidance for social, community and residential care settings Publication Date: 16 April](#)

Questions from Managers Care homes.

Do **residents** now have to **wear face masks** if tolerated as per most recent recent guidance? HPT that this can be worn by residents if risk assessed, informed consent evident and tolerated by the resident.

Are visiting **pets** allowed to be brought in for indoor visits? We will seek clarification on this. We know they are allowed outdoors following a risk assessment.

Are **Hairdressers** allowed back in? Yes, see open with care supplementary guidance and last week's care home bulletin.

Do we need to send in our **updated risk assessments** to HPT for indoor visiting? No, so long as you have updated this in line with current guidance, you can contact us for any advice required but there is no requirement for this to be signed off by HPT.

How many visitors allowed outdoors? This should be in line with national household guidance i.e. Currently allowed 6 people from up to 6 households. The resident would count as 1 person from 1 household. Section 3.2 of the recent PHS NSS 19th April 2021. However do consider your capacity to support this volume of people to visit safely and consider how to make this equitable to all residents – take it slow.

Are visitors allowed to take in **home baking** for 1 resident? No, we could not find this included in any of the supplementary guidance.

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