

Grampian Health Protection Team (HPT) Weekly Bulletin – Care Homes

Week beginning 10/05/21

Symptomatic staff or their household contacts

- **Reminder** to advise all staff **DO NOT ATTEND WORK** if have any low grade extended symptoms for example:- headache, runny nose, sinus symptoms, vomiting or diarrhoea, general cold symptoms, sore throat, generally feeling unwell, (off colour) raised temperature. Unfortunately we are still having staff turn up to work then test POSITIVE to Covid 19.
- Please ensure symptomatic staff are aware to book via NHS Grampian and that any household contacts of health and care staff with COVID 19 symptoms should be tested via this route also. <https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/information-for-nhs-grampian-staff/subpages/covid-19-testing/staff-covid-19-testing/>

Notification of symptomatic staff or residents - please notify HPT, via duty call room, if any service users or staff are symptomatic and/or being tested.

National hub staff surveillance PCR testing –

- If a result comes back **inconclusive** staff should simply re-join the following week's surveillance testing. Please advise staff of this and so long as the staff member remains asymptomatic – there is NO requirement for the staff member to be re-tested by another route, other than their LFD tests, in the interim.
- **Leaking sample tubes** -Labs report that if all samples are placed into the same bag they can leak in transit and contaminate other samples and obscure labels invalidating results. To this end please ensure individual sample tubes are double bagged.

Local guidance from Health Protection Regarding staff who work in care homes and want to **take on a second job** for example pubs, restaurants, retail, hospital and university placements, schools.

- Ultimately the provider, care home manager and the individual have the responsibility to make this decision. The care home managers need to have robust individual risk assessment in place for that individual whilst ensuring communication is maintained to enable escalation and management of any potential threats such as a positive case or an outbreak within the 2nd work place of work—it's all about minimising the risks of potential transmission within the Care environment
- Care home managers have to ensure that the second work environment has excellent mitigating factors in place, such as hand hygiene, mask wearing, and policing social distancing. The care home manager also has to be assured the individual will follow the guidelines, pertinent to that setting.
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Move to level 2 on May 17th – Following the first minister’s announcement this week many of you have had questions around to what extent further relaxations for the general population can be applied to both elderly care home residents and people in other care settings?

HPT await further clarity and guidance from both HP Scotland and the Care Inspectorate and until we get further clarity we do not recommend allowing further relaxations to what we have said in previous meetings/bulletins. Care home managers and co-ordinators from other care settings report fielding a lot of questions and receiving a fair amount of pressure from same to allow them to take residents out to indoor public places, overnight stays and trips out of the care environment to visit other friends and relatives in their private dwellings both indoors and outdoors. HPT re-iterated that we should take pace with further relaxations, that each outing should be risk assessed, and the care and safety of residents, staff and visitors should not be compromised or judged as putting any one at risk whilst out and about.

Training for staff working in Care Homes and other Care settings - Would you be interested in receiving staff training provided by the Health Protection and Care Home Support & Assurance Nursing Team?

If so, what training topics do you feel you need most support with?

Please take a moment to complete our short survey. This will help us to plan and deliver the training programmes you would like to support your staff to deliver excellence in care.

The survey can be completed anonymously, and results will be amalgamated, but there is the option to provide your email address if you would like us to approach you directly about your training needs.

To access the survey please control and click on the following link:

<https://wh.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=161892986917>

The survey will be live until 25 May 2021.

Many thanks for your participation.

Care home managers/HPT meetings – A wee reminder that these now occur fortnightly. There will be no meetings next week and we look forward to seeing you, if you are able to join, on your allocated day the following week (w/c 24th May2021).

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