

Health Protection Team Bulletin

Week commencing 24th May 2021

Open with Care (OwC)– Visits within and trips out - Visit here for the latest Scot Gov Guidance - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult care homes guidance](#)

Workshops on Open with Care supporting meaningful contact – visiting including outwards visits A series of workshops have been organised for care home providers and partners to discuss the advice and raise any questions or concerns. Anyone interested should use the link to join on the day (note - places are on a first come, first served basis) and we would also encourage oversight partners to attend. Everyone is welcome to drop in to any/all sessions to ask questions as the guidance is implemented. Details of workshops are listed in this letter [17th May Open with Care – Activities and outings away from the care home – additional](#) Note: Forthcoming dates for these are **Tuesday 1st June 2-3pm** and **Tuesday 8th June 2-3pm**.

Key points:

- Residents do not need to isolate when returning from day visits or overnight visits at (level 2)
- At the moment there is no change to isolation guidance following hospital admission– this is still 14 days. This applies to new admissions also.
- Outside the care home, residents are generally subject to the same covid regulations around meeting people indoors/outdoors in public spaces or private houses as the general population. Remember [FACTS](#) and encourage residents and their visitors to follow this when out and about.
- (6 people from 3 households can meet inside – resident is one household)
- (8 people from 8 households can meet outside – resident is one household)-
- Vaccination is not mandatory to support outings of relative or resident
- Anyone planning to meet up may recommend family lateral flow test prior to resident visit or overnight stay.
- HPT would recommend you keep a record of all resident’s overnight stays or outings within their care plans.
- As ever Health Protection is here to assist and support you, but please can we ask that you as the Manager you are able to have a look at the guidance, it may answer your query and save you waiting for Health Protection to get back in touch with you.
- **NEW** Up to two designated visitors can now visit the resident at the same time inside the care home and they can be from different households. There are no restrictions on the frequency of these visits. These visitors should be offered LFD testing at each visit.
- Many of you have had questions around the OwC and HPT are compiling a list of Questions that we will need to get back to you on via subsequent bulletins once we have more clarity.

- **How do we manage indoor visits?** Refer to the OwC guidance, attend one of the webinars, and to consider increasing the **frequency** of visits based on your own discretion considering residents/visitors wishes/needs whilst balancing your capacity and resources to safely and equitably support visits. Also your local oversight group should be able to support you with amending policies, visitor protocols etc.

Visiting Update Safety Huddle

- From Tuesday 25th May, you'll notice a couple of updates which have been made to the 'Visiting' section within the Safety Huddle Tool.
- The first change is to capture residents who are having overnight stays away from the Care Home to understand the spreading patterns of Covid-19. You'll see we've added the question, '**Are any residents leaving the care home today for an overnight stay away?**'
- This is a mandatory question to be filled in daily. If you answer, 'yes' to this question, you'll be asked, '**How many residents?**'
- The second change is an update to the existing outdoor visiting 'help text' to make this clear that outdoor visiting includes visits away from the Care Home and not just outside but within in the grounds of the Care Home. The guidance has been tweaked from, "**Garden/window visits and residents seeing loved ones outside the care homes**" to '**Any outside visits or outings, in the grounds or away from the care home.**'

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact nes.caremanagement.support@nes.scot.nhs.uk

LFD testing – one care manager reported that they were no longer prompted to log the serial number of the test kits and queried this with NSS portal.

Response from COVID portal:

- The portal no longer requires the serial number, it requires the lot number from the test packaging so if you can input this, in substitution to the serial number.
- If you are following and filling out the information stated by the portal your result will be logged correctly.

Launch of the new National Infection Prevention and Control Manual for Older People and Adult Care Homes and the National Cleaning Specification for Older People and Adult Care Homes

Link to National IPC manual <https://www.nipcm.scot.nhs.uk/> and the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Infection Prevention and Control Manual for older people and adult care homes \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#) sits within this.

[Infection Prevention & Control Manual for Older people and Adult Care Homes workshops](#) **Six workshops have been organised** to give an introduction and further information about the Manual, to support care homes to successfully implement the Manual and embed IPC practices. The Manual will be mandatory in adult and older

people care home settings and care homes will be checked for assurance against it through inspections led by the Care Inspectorate from September 2021 onwards.

NB. The next available workshop is **Live Session, Tuesday 15 June 2021, 2 - 3:30 pm** you will need to register for this Webinar.

It is our understanding that these live documents will be updated electronically as new evidence becomes available. The new IPC Care home manual aligns to the [Scottish COVID-19 Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Addendum](#) (Care Homes) and [Scottish COVID-19 Community Health and Care Settings Infection Prevention and Control Addendum](#) (Other Care settings).

For Care Inspectorate visits before the 1st of September your care environment will still be judged on your compliance with the COVID addendum above but there is an expectation that providers, managers and staff are aware of the new manual before that time.

The new manual and cleaning specification do have downloadable posters to print and display in your care environment.

[Care Home Cleaning Specification workshops](#)

A National Cleaning Specification has also been developed by Health Facilities Scotland which will sit within the Manual. The Cleaning Specification will provide clear guidance specific for use in an adult care home environment on cleaning products, practices, role and responsibilities of staff and care home managers and will provide tools to support improvement and quality assurance within care homes. Six workshops have been organised to advise staff in adult care homes of the purpose and context of the Specification and guidance on how to use it to support their cleaning service. Further information and registration for the workshops is available on the above link.

Bare below the elbows – Please remind staff of all disciplines irrespective of whether they are in patient/resident facing roles of the requirement for this – no jewellery except a single, plain metal finger ring is allowed but should be taken off (or moved up) during hand hygiene); no nail varnish, spiritual wrist bands, watches, fit bits should be worn below the elbow to enable hand hygiene to be effective and comply with IPC standards. Section 2 - Hand Hygiene - in the new IPC manual nicely illustrates how to comply with this. [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Infection Prevention and Control Manual for older people and adult care homes \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

Uptake of staff surveillance testing – We have recently seen a dip in the uptake of both LFD and PCR testing. Please encourage staff to undertake these. If we can quickly identify asymptomatic carriers of the coronavirus this approach will help to prevent outbreaks in Care Homes and the wider community. *Do not give the virus opportunities.*

Care Home Manager experience of Care Inspectorate visit - Look out for an invite to this from manager Phil Stuart - he will be discussing his latest experiences following a recent Care Inspectorate Visit on teams Friday the 4th June.

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