

Care Homes Bulletin for week beginning 1/3/21

Updates/ messages:

Active Outbreaks – case rate per 100 000 falling in Grampian. Less covid related deaths and hospital admissions and wider picture very much improved. According to data we may expect another rise as schools open and relaxing of lockdown restrictions commence.

Asymptomatic testing sites now in position in Peterhead, Aberdeen City, Keith and Forres - they are well attended. LFDs are offered and if positive then PCR.

Cohorting Staff – This is recommended in national guidance in all care homes. Cohorting means that the same staff work together in teams and work with the same residents/ in the same units/areas on a long term basis. This approach prevents spread of infection beyond any area and it is making a difference. Think alternatively how you can do this and contact HPT or other care homes for further support.

Night Staff – make sure they are following the same guidelines and receive the same level of support as all other staff. Need to ensure all staff are trained in IP&C - hand washing, mask compliance, social distancing (particularly during breaks). Many index cases are linked to night shift because of PPE and social distancing breaches.

Contacts/Households of positive cases are now offered testing on Day 3 and Day 5 – **they must still finish their 10 day isolation**

Lateral Flow Testing – Tests are designed for asymptomatic testing and are not an accurate test for any one with symptoms - **DO NOT USE FOR STAFF, RELATIVES OR RESIDENTS WITH SYMPTOMS.** If a staff member becomes symptomatic after a negative LFD or has a positive LFD they should isolate and get a PCR test through [covid19.nhsgrampian.org](https://www.covid19.nhsgrampian.org)

Testing symptomatic residents- please ensure that you fill in the resident's details on the swab container, and fill in the lab chit correctly. If you fail to do this, the lab WILL NOT test the sample and you will have to carry out the test again. Pictorial guide to follow and please let HPT know if there is any difficulty accessing swabs from the Hubs. **A video with full instructions can be viewed here:**

<https://vimeo.com/409481946>

10 Week Resident Surveillance Testing still goes ahead as normal even when just out of outbreak testing.

Staff Weekly Surveillance Testing via Regional Testing Hub- DO NOT USE STAFF TEST SWABS FOR RESIDENTS. They go to different labs. If a member of staff does not receive their result within 48 hours they must contact the testing team via the support function on the testing portal www.covidtestingportal.scot or their Manager can call 0800 008 6587. Managers should call the helpline if staff results are late - call handler may ask for Barcodes, Care Inspectorate Number and resident numbers as a security check.

Flowers and Gifts for Mothers Day on 14/3 are allowed as long as wipable – then take out of the box or cellophane before handing to residents.

Hairdressers - restrictions still apply.

Covid Vaccine Q&A session This has been postponed- it will now take place on Thursday 11/3/21 via Teams for all care home staff with Katrina Morrison, Lead Immunisation Nurse NHSG. This will be recorded for those unable to attend the webinar. Immunisation rates are good but there are still many frontline health and social care workers refusing vaccination. There is work in progress around vaccine hesitancy.

NES are running 2 free webinars: **“Infection Prevention & Control during the Covid-19 Pandemic- Supporting, Valuing and Listening to Health and Social Care Workers”**.

To register, please use the following link, selecting your preferred date

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/28079/coronavirus-covid-19/protecting-yourself-and-your-workplace-environment#webinars>

Live Session, Tuesday 09 March 2021, 1.30 - 3:00 pm

Live Session, Wednesday 17 March 2021, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Donning and Doffing training can be booked weekly at gram.ipc-donn-doff-training@nhs.scot

Visiting guidance – **“Open with Care”** published on the 24/2

Latest Care home Visiting Guidance FAQs can be found here [scotgov open with care FAQs](#)

Open with Care – supporting meaningful contact in care homes –workshops

8th March 4-5pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

12th March 10-11am - [Click here to join the meeting](#)

15th March 4-5pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

19th March 1-2pm – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

