



Hillside Care Home

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To : All Family & Friends of Hillside Care Home 8th March 2021
From : Gareth Bamsey

Subject : **Hillside Care Home – Covid Update & Visiting Arrangements**

Dear 'Family & Friends of Hillside Care Home'

Covid-19 Update

I am pleased to let you know that we contained the latest Covid-19 incident and no Residents and no further Staff members became infected. Victoria is now also back at work which is great to see.

I am also delighted to let you know that all of the Residents have now received their 2nd vaccination today, Monday, 8th March 2021 (*except two who recently moved in*). I am really pleased and relieved to be reaching this important milestone. In a few more weeks, once this 2nd dose has had time to be effective, I feel that we will finally be reaching the stage where we can start putting this pandemic behind us.

Internal Visits

From Saturday 13th March 2021 I am also pleased to confirm that we will see a return to Internal Visits for each resident's Designated Visitor (*or Deputy Designated Visitor in their absence*).

Internal Visitors will need to have a Lateral Flow Device test (LFD Test) on the day of their internal visit. These are simple, swab tests that give a result in 20-30 minutes. I understand that the Innova LFD test has a sensitivity of 76.8% - meaning it will identify more than 7 in 10 positive cases of COVID. This rises to over 95% of those with high viral loads – who are those most likely to be infectious. You can do these tests at home on the day of your visit before you come to the care home. We will therefore give each Designated Visitor a box of 25 test kits to take home.

If an internal visitor has not taken a test that day then they will need to take the test at Hillside. They will therefore need to allow an extra 30 minutes before the internal visit in order to take the test and wait outside for a negative result. Clearly, if the result is positive then the visit can not go ahead and they would also need to go to a Covid-19 testing centre to have a PCR test. As a staff team, we are all currently undertaking two of these LFD tests in our own homes each week, as well as the weekly PCR tests (*Polymerase chain reaction*).

Outside Visits

Both the Designated Visitor and Deputy Designated Visitors can still use the outside visiting areas in the normal way if you prefer (*without testing*). Likewise, other family and friends can now also visit Residents in the outside areas. It's also fine to have two or three people visiting outside if you wish.

For all internal and outside visits please use the booking system in the normal way or book via Kath Evans, our Administrator, if you prefer. It is really nice for your loved ones to know when you are visiting as they can look forward to this and likewise for the team to know on the day.

If you have any questions or concerns with any of the above then please do not hesitate to contact Margaret, Lissy or myself. I do feel that the light is finally at the end of the tunnel and it is such a relief to reach this important milestone of residents receiving their 2nd vaccination. Thank you once again for your kindness and support throughout these challenging times. The staff team and myself really appreciate the positive and supportive comments that so many of you have made.

With warm wishes



Gareth Bamsey
Director & Responsible Individual