

## Care Home Provider Update 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Provider,

**WEBPAGE REMINDER** - Please check <http://valuecroydon.com/support-for-care-homes-during-covid-2-2> for all the latest guidance and information for care homes during Covid-19.

**THURSDAY'S CARE HOME INFORMATION SESSION** – Today's information session will explore some resident and staff engagement we are planning with Healthwatch as well as the usual chance to ask any questions you have. Do join at 1pm via this link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

**RM INNOVATION AND LEARNING PARTNERSHIP VIRTUAL MEETING** – Oonagh Smyth, CEO of Skills For Care will be speaking at the next RM Innovation and Learning Partnership Virtual Meeting on 23 July 9.45 to 11.15. The meeting will discuss a range of issues affecting the care sector including racism in the workplace. If you would like to join this meeting and submit and questions, please email [peter@lcasforum.org](mailto:peter@lcasforum.org) or [dudley@peoplecareservices.com](mailto:dudley@peoplecareservices.com). Dudley will also be at the information session this afternoon to answer any questions.

### TESTING

#### **Care homes to receive regular test kits by the end of July**

From 6 July onwards, the Government will start to roll out weekly testing of staff and testing of residents every 28 days in all care homes without outbreaks. Bank, agency and visiting staff such as social workers and Allied Health Professionals working in care homes should be included in the weekly staff tests in care homes.

Retesting helps to prevent and control outbreaks in care homes and means steps can be taken to reduce the spread of the virus. This approach balances the need for regular testing of staff, who will potentially be more exposed to the virus with the fact that regular testing can be difficult and distressing for some residents.

**Care homes for the over 65s and those with dementia will be prioritised** because these homes were the first to receive whole home testing in the initial round of testing. Retesting will then be expanded to the remaining adult care homes from early August. The digital portal is now open to allow care homes for the over 65s and those with dementia to register for retesting. **To register for testing please access the digital portal [here](#).**

**INFECTION CONTROL FUND (Attachment 1)** – For care homes still considering what to spend the Infection Control funding on, please see attached update on acceptable use of the funds based on the national guidance. When the second tranche of funding is received we will immediately distribute to care homes who have signed the grant agreement.

If you have any questions about spending the Infection Control Fund please email [enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk). We can also answer questions about it at the Information Session tomorrow.

#### **Emergency PPE Process for Providers (Attachment 2)**

For care homes with low PPE supplies, please see the attached guidance for acquiring emergency PPE. The guidance explains the emergency PPE process for both small and large providers via the National PPE Portal and the Council.

Wherever possible we would encourage you to continue to try and secure PPE supplies through your usual supply routes in the first instance. Further information on sourcing PPE and emergency supplies, and also guidance for homes with 24 beds or fewer can be found on the webpage, please click [here](#).

Thanks again for you and your carers great support of our vulnerable residents.

Care Home Commissioning Team