

## Care Home Provider Update Thursday 23<sup>rd</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 focus on the new visiting policy guidance, PPE guidance and seasonal flu vaccinations. Do join at 1pm via this link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

### **Government guidance- update on policies for visiting arrangements in care homes**

Yesterday (Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July) the Government released guidance on visiting arrangements in care homes. The guidance includes advice for providers when establishing their visiting policy and when taking visiting decisions for particular residents or groups of residents. The guidance is available [here](#) and will be discussed in today's information session.

### **Updated Government guidance- COVID-19: how to work safely in care homes**

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July, the Government published updated guidance for care homes which includes new recommendation for use of face masks and coverings to prevent transmission. The guidance is available [here](#).

## **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**

If you have any questions about spending the Infection Control Fund please email [enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk).

### **Emergency PPE Process for Providers (Attachment 1)**

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](#).

### **Infection Prevention and Control Information Sharing session (Attachments 2, 3 and 4)**

Please see attached the following documents shared at the previous IPC Information Sharing session on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July:

- London Care Home Resource Pack (attachment 2)
- Visitor signing-in template (attachment 3)
- NHS SW London CCG Covid-19 and Care Homes FAQs (attachment 4)

### **RM Innovation and Learning Partnership Virtual Meeting– 23<sup>rd</sup> July 09:45- 11:15**

Oonagh Smyth, CEO of Skills For Care will be speaking at the next RM Innovation and Learning Partnership Virtual Meeting. The meeting will discuss a range of issues affecting the care sector including racism in the workplace. If you would like to submit questions ahead of the meeting, please email [peter@icasforum.org](mailto:peter@icasforum.org) or [dudley@peoplecareservices.com](mailto:dudley@peoplecareservices.com)

### **NHS-led mental wellbeing webinars for health and care workers, Thursdays at 16:00:**

A new [Keeping Well for Health and Care Workers](#) webinar series is designed to help manage the emotional health and wellbeing of those working in health and care services, whether at the front line or in supporting services. Taking place on Thursdays at 4pm, each session has a focus on sustaining staff wellbeing and will explore topics such as preventing burnout, coping with stress and sleeping better. The full schedule and recorded webinars are available from the [Thrive LDN website](#).

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

Care Home Commissioning Team