



Your Ref:

Our Ref: YR073/AF

Enquiries to: **Yvonne Rhodes**

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Tel. Direct: (01482) 395100

Date: 28 July 2020

Dear Colleagues

Re: Infection Control and Visiting Restrictions

If you have dialled into any of our regular calls you will know that we have been discussing the need for ongoing infection control and restrictions on access to care homes until such times as we have a vaccine for Covid 19.

This letter is designed to be clear about what our expectations are as a Council, in respect of maintaining the integrity of infection control during the pandemic, so you can share with families that what you are doing in terms of restricting visiting as part of discharging your obligations under our contract.

In general terms our position continues to be that those who fall into the extremely vulnerable category, which will be significant in numbers in older people's residential care, must continue to receive the highest level of protection from the infection. This includes you maintaining very high tight infection control measures within the home and limiting the number of people who enter the home to the very minimum.

Visiting inside the home can only happen where you can demonstrate that you have a safe place for visiting to take place. This should be a room that is large enough for people to socially distance and is easily cleared between visits, as physical contact with relatives/friends cannot be permitted unless the resident is willing and able to self-isolate for 14 days afterwards. PPE should be worn as appropriate and you should have sufficient staff available to ensure visits can happen safely. If you cannot put in place all of these measures in your visiting risk assessment visits should not go ahead.

We need to continue to recognise how difficult this is going to be for families and our residents. The issues about visiting need to be dealt with compassionately, but never the less firmly. I know the lengths the vast majority of you have gone to in order to facilitate safe visiting and I am very grateful, however, the safety of residents has to be paramount.

Visiting and contact should be encouraged through virtual means and outside wherever this is possible and reasonable with indoor visiting only permitted in line with safe working practices and the visiting risk assessment for your home.

Please do not be pushed into compromising the integrity of infection control and seek guidance and advice from the Covid hub or with myself/Lindsay Robinson or Liz Smithson on the calls.

What others may feel is essential, may not be in the context of public health advice and the current rate of infection, so please check this out and until you have discussed with us, maintain your position if you feel the proposed visit is not necessary or safe.

I hope you find this helpful, but if not feel free to contact me via the ASC Covid-19 inbox, asccovid19@eastriding.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y Rhodes', written in a cursive style.

Yvonne Rhodes
Head of Business Management and Commissioning