

Wessex Care Briefing 2021 Number 3 (16/03/21)

Well, it's a year ago today that we issued our first COVID 19 resident, family and employee briefings; who would of have thought that we would still all be battling COVID. It seems still too early to think on reflection as we begin the process, as a nation, of getting back to whatever the new normal will look like so we will focus on the here and now.

Kimberly East and Milford Manor managed to return to full operation following their outbreaks and the very sad loss of a number of residents. It is right and proper to mourn their passing. It is also important that we acknowledge and even celebrate the many that were supported back to wellness.

Kimberly West and Holmwood have both had one individual staff in each service test positive this results in immediate closure to all visitors and admission, bedroom isolation for all residents and 7 days of daily testing. Kimberly West will end its confinement and restrictions tomorrow with no additional positive tests. Holmwood started their 7-day isolation period yesterday. A single member of staff testing positive does not constitute an outbreak but we have chosen to respond in the same way as an immediate precaution which we hope you will understand and support.

Little Manor Hospital Discharge Support Unit for COVID + or COVID contact patients has peaked and numbers requiring this service have significantly declined. The Council and NHS system flow Directors review the bed requirements across Wiltshire every week and you would expect that there is caution regarding a potential 4th peak following the relaxation of the community COVID rules.

There will inevitably be an increase in people catching COVID with a relaxation but the key is, with the amazing roll out of the vaccine we should see fewer, as a percentage, going on to require hospital / critical care and thus although an increase, the impact on the Hospitals is likely to be less. This does beg the question as to whether what we will see is significant pressure focused at community services and GP practices instead as people not requiring hospitalisation but none the less needing additional community-based health and social care input.

Vaccination is now well established with new residents and staff receiving vaccination in a timely manner. Our staff teams will start to receive their second vaccination this week as they were in the first group that received their first vaccination back in early January.

Visiting is progressing well and it has been lovely to welcome families back with Pod no contact screened visits and 'single constant visitor' who can have limited hand holding contact visits. We are also developing bedroom visits for residents unable to access a Pod. We would ask all visitors to pay particular attention and adherence to the IPC & PPE requirements. We want to get to a position that all visitors understand what is required at the same level as our staff do so that we can begin to reduce the levels of supervision required during visiting which in time should enhance the whole experience as other visiting requirements begin to relax.

Fantastic work team, we are working to ensure your dedication and commitment does not go unrecognised and that you begin to now start taking some breaks. Thank you again for all the messages of support the teams have received and continue to receive.

Pauline, Matthew, Jodie & Christian