

Wessex Care Resident & Visitor Briefing 15

Well, this will be the last briefing of 2020 and we wanted to end with as much up-to-date information as possible on testing, vaccination and visiting

Testing

For all staff: Current PCR swab test will continue once per week. This test remains the gold standard for testing as is the most accurate but takes 24 to 48 hours for a result.

Rapid LFD swab test will commence on the 4th Jan, LFD test gives a result within 15 to 30min. This additional testing is aimed at increasing the chance of identifying quickly asymptomatic individual staff and thus increasing the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measure we have to protect our residents and customers in the community. We will be opening a testing clinic from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday at the main office in the main reception area.

All testing to date for residents and staff has remained negative other than one very recent positive test from an asymptomatic member of staff at Milford Manor who is now self-isolating and we have instigated the reporting and testing protocols for all residents and staff using the new rapid LFD test and this will be completed for all staff every day for the next seven days. Unfortunately protocol also requires that we close to all visitors and admissions during this period.

For all Visitors: In addition, all visitors professional or family will be required to have an LFD test before accessing the service. Arrangements will be made for attendance at the testing clinics just prior to agreed pre book time of visits

Vaccination

We are please to confirm that the start of vaccination of all Health and Social Care staff has commenced locally and we are privileged to have been provided with vaccination opportunity for approximately 40% of our employees who will attend, with us, Salisbury Hospital on the 1st January.

Now that we have the more stable, travel / storage wise, Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine we expect this will be the one that is primarily used directly to our residents in the homes and Care Centres and within the community for house bound customers. We have no information at present regarding role out but understand that residents in registered care homes still have a top level of priority. In preparation for this we have commenced the normal process for gaining consent from any resident with capacity or engaging in a 'Best Interest Assessment' where required.

Visiting

We will be maintaining our current visiting arrangements, subject to national 'Tier' restrictions and local DPH guidance and plan for the day when we have sufficient vaccination in place to see a gradual return to our post COVID position.

As always, we are here to answer any concerns or support requirements you may need. Let's look forward to a brighter 2021.

Pauline, Matthew, Jodie & Christian