MESSAGE TO RELATIVES FROM DEBORAH SMITH

HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGER AT RISEDALE ESTATES LTD

17TH MAY 2021

VISITING UPDATE

As the roadmap out of lockdown is progressing, the updated guidance on care home visits and out of care home visits has now been received.

Therefore, in keeping with current guidance there are some changes to the information contained in the 13th May letter that was issued to you from your home manager last week. The updated information from the guidance is set out in summary format below.

Visiting inside the care home

* Residents may now nominate up to five named visitors
* There is a limit of up to two named visitors per visit.
* There is a maximum of one visit per day for each resident identified in the guidance, however the homes can only continue to accommodate one visit a week for each resident.
* All named visitors must have a negative LFD test result prior to the visit. The test must be taken on the day of the visit, and onsite in the home for assurance purposes
* Full PPE must continue to be worn, social distancing and infection control procedures maintained
* The visit must continue to be held in the resident’s own bedroom, with no access to communal areas of the home
* Physical contact with your loved one must be kept to a minimum, such as holding hands. Any physical contact increases risk of transmission of the virus, therefore close physical contact such as hugging, should not be undertaken
* Screen visits, window visits and visits in the grounds can still be accommodated but will be classed as the residents visit for that week

Social visits outside the care home

* Residents can be accompanied to an outdoor place by one or two of their five nominated visitors
* There is a limit of up to two named visitors per visit
* The accompanying visitor/s must have a negative LFD test result prior to the visit. The test must be taken on the day of the visit, and onsite in the home for assurance purposes
* Your loved one is not required to have an LFD test prior to the outward visit
* The visit will be subject to an individual risk assessment, as with all types of visits. Where the risks outweigh the benefits to the resident an outward visit may not be deemed a safe activity to be undertaken.
* Residents should not go into any indoor space, unless for the use of toilet facilities if required
* Residents can meet up with others outdoors but social distancing of at least two metres must be undertaken: with no physical contact and no crowded areas
* Infection control precautions must be maintained throughout the visit, such as hand hygiene etc. by both resident and visitor
* Public transport should not be used during the visit; travel in a family car accompanied by the nominated visitor/s for the visit, or by private taxi, is permitted. Visitors must wear a mask and the resident supported to also do so in these circumstances.
* The outward visit will be classed as the resident’s family visit for that particular week
* The resident will not be required to self-isolate for 14 days on return to the home as long as all the precautions set out in this summary are followed.

It is important that nominated family visitors accompanying the resident and their wider family; give careful thought to the potential risks in taking their loved one out of the care home environment. Consideration should be made of the infection risk for the resident, other residents in the home, other family and friends and the staff; particularly in view of a potential ‘variant of concern’ being identified. Where there is an outbreak in the home, which will occur with just one resident being affected, visiting will cease for at least 14 days, should the outbreak be associated to a variant of concern, visiting will be required to stop for at least 28 days.

Should you require any clarification or further information on the contents of the update, please speak to your home manager.

Thank You for your continued support and understanding