MESSAGE TO RELATIVES FROM DEBORAH SMITH

HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGER AT RISEDALE ESTATES LTD

19th JULY 2021

VISITING UPDATE

The Government have now instigated stage four out of lockdown procedures and associated visiting in and out of care home guidance is now available. An overview is highlighted below.

Testing procedures

The requirement for all named visitors to undertake a rapid test (LFD) before entering the care home and supporting your loved one to visits out of the care home continues to be required. A negative test must be received, on-site, prior to the visit. Should residents attend inside a family home, all those present must also have received a negative LFD test on the day of the visit. Social distancing in external areas is still required, and crowded areas avoided.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Control Precautions

The wearing of PPE remains a requirement of entry into care home environments. Therefore, the home will continue to assist in the correct procedures for PPE application and removal. Social distancing in the home and good hygiene practices are to remain in place. Where contact with your loved one can be facilitated following a negative test and PPE application, this should still be kept to a minimum.

Named visitors

There are now no limits to the number of visitors residents can have coming into the home; however, all such visitors must be ‘named’ by the resident or deemed as visiting in the resident’s best interests where this applies. All visits will continue to be planned to allow for all residents receiving their visitors safely. We continue to facilitate as many visits as we can fit into each day, but we are simply unable to increase frequency, given the stringent procedures that have to remain in place.

Essential Care Givers

Your home manager may have contacted you regarding the essential care giver role and the requirements necessary for a resident to require this care and support. If you wish to know more about this, then please speak to your manager and they will provide the information to you.

Screen visits, garden visits and window visits

These types of visits are still an option for those who are not a named visitor and do not require an LFD test. The health checklist will still be completed prior to the visit, PPE and infection prevention and control precautions and social distancing will remain a requirement in these circumstances

Outbreak protocols

In the event of home closure due to an outbreak situation, routine visits will not go ahead except for essential care givers and visits at the end of life.

Vaccination

Double vaccination of all visiting individuals is strongly recommended by the Government and by Risedale, and is included in the government guidance as being a major control in protecting our residents; thus, being the best defence against infection and reducing transmission of the virus.

We are aware that the easing of restrictions in care home settings by the Government are minimal, but the safety of all residents remains the priority, particularly as Covid-19 cases continue to rise throughout the County in the community, and the threat of other variants of concern being identified.

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.