

2 June 2020

### **Coronavirus Update**

Protecting our residents from coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be the focus of our utmost efforts and while it is encouraging that the latest figures released by the Office for National Statistics show the infection rate of COVID-19 in care homes is decreasing week-on-week, it remains a very challenging situation.

On Sunday 10 May the Prime Minister announced a 'five-stage' plan to begin easing the current lockdown restrictions. Following the updates announced on Sunday 31 May, regarding those shielding being able to now meet outdoors with a family member, providing strict social distancing guidelines are followed, we are reviewing our current visiting policy and making preparations to lift restrictions on visiting in a controlled manner.

I know that this time has been hard, as we are all desperate to see our loved ones in person as soon as possible, but we all need to stay vigilant to protect those we care about and not undo all of the hard work that everyone – staff, residents and relatives – have done so far. As soon as we feel that it is safe to do so, we will contact you again to explain our revised visiting procedures.

To protect our residents and staff, we have proactively secured and maintained sufficient stocks of PPE and established clear processes for our staff to follow, in line with the guidance provided by the Government and Public Health England.

The testing kits that are available to us have all been ordered and distributed as quickly as possible. In line with the protocols these have been made available for any residents who are symptomatic, followed by any residents with underlying health conditions or are at a higher risk. We will continue to access as much testing as made available from Public Health England, CQC and local testing centres. However, we are experiencing considerable delay in obtaining the results of these tests in a timely fashion.

I am pleased to see many of you have been taking advantage of the technology available in our homes to stay in touch with your loved ones, be it over Skype, WhatsApp, Messenger or by following the activities on Facebook. We continue to deliver person-centred activities and care to our residents, and it is our pleasure to be able to share these moments with you as best we can.

If you have any questions about our plans to manage coronavirus, please email the Home Manager.

Stuart Clarkson  
Managing Director