

### Visiting

Family visits to our residents have reopened on a phased and closely managed basis, underpinned by public health, infection control advice, guidance from the HSE and available information on case numbers in the local community.

The aim of our visiting protocol is to facilitate visits to Esker Lodge in a carefully organised, managed and supported way that ensures the safety of our residents, their visitors, and the nursing home team. We want to ensure your visit with your loved one is a safe experience for everyone.

***The welfare of our residents is our priority at all times. This is and continues to be an evolving situation that is being monitored daily, and management are in continuous consultations with residents and their representatives.*** We ask for patience and understanding as we manage the measures we need to put in place in the best interests of residents and staff, during the pandemic.

Family members must meet the following criteria before visiting:

- Not have an elevated temperature (37.5C or greater)
- Confirm that they are asymptomatic i.e. not feeling unwell, do not have any recently acquired cough, loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste
- Have not had any recent close contacts with confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Agree to complete hand hygiene and wear surgical masks (or other PPE provided) prior to and following the visit
- Have isolated and / or be able to provide a not detected PCR result if arriving to the nursing home after travel abroad

### Visiting Protocol For Family Members

- Each resident will have a two visitors at one time (excluding critical and compassionate care or end of life care visits)
- We ask that visitors perform hand hygiene, complete a risk assessment form provided and sanitise the pen provided
- Visitors will then be welcomed to the home by a member of the team who will receive the risk assessment form, ensure hand hygiene has been performed and fresh masks provided have been put on.
- Visitors should declare that they have no symptoms and undergo a temperature check before being permitted to enter the home
- Visitors with fever or respiratory symptoms will not be admitted
- Once this risk assessment process including temperature check, new mask and hand hygiene is completed our team will escort the visitor to the designated area
- As the team will constantly seek to manage the footfall in and out of the nursing home and the number of visitors onsite, unplanned visits shall not be facilitated
- Designated visiting areas will be cleaned between visits
- All visitors will be required to wear PPE during the visit. This will be provided by the home. Visitors are required to wear a surgical mask which will be provided by the home.
- No food/ refreshments are permitted. Use of the resident's/visitors' bathroom facilities is discouraged.
- Children under 16 are not permitted to visit
- The resident's right to decline a visitor shall be respected

All these measures are in alignment with national guidance on infection prevention and control, current and future guidance and recommendations with regard to social distancing and other public health measures, and in addition, current and future guidance specific to nursing homes.

During an ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 within a home, family and friends will be advised that all visits except essential visiting (for example end of life) is suspended in the interest of protecting residents, visitors and staff at this time.

End of document.