



Talbot Group

Dignity Respect Kindness Engagement

Talbot Group

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Date: 23rd December 2020

Re: **Message from the CEO – Coronavirus and Government Restrictions**

Dear Resident, Family Member and Staff

I am writing to update you about on the most recent situation in relation to Coronavirus and to outline the actions we are taking as an organisation to prevent it from spreading. As you know with effect from the 24th December 2020 until the 12th January 2021 the government have implemented level 5 restrictions nationally.

The following arrangements are aimed at ensuring the potential spread of COVID-19 is managed and kept low during this period. The details for home visits and visits to our services during level 5 restrictions are outlined below.

1. Home leave

All home leave plans subject to individual risk assessments and under agreement with families to follow the guidelines in place for Christmas Day/Stephens Day can continue as planned. Isolation guidelines and plans remain in place upon their return.

From the 27th December all home leave is suspended. Should families wish to take their family member home during the restrictions they must commit to keeping them at home until the restrictions are lifted and upon receipt of a negative COVID-19 test.

In **exceptional** circumstances home leave can be considered however this must be in consultation with the PIC and is subject to an individual risk assessment.

Visits

During Level 5 the following arrangements will be apply:

Level 5	Visiting
All Services	All visits are subject to individual risk assessments. Under level 5 restrictions there can be garden visiting with up to 2 people for 1 hour only, whilst utilising PPE and implementing social distancing at all times.
Visits During level 5 Where there is no outbreak of Covid-19	Additionally, on critical and compassionate grounds, there can be one-hour room visits (residents' individual bedroom or one allocated room with additional infection control measures in place) There can be one visit by one person per week. We would like to limit visits where possible during level 5. However where residents wish to have visits, we will accommodate them within the guidelines.

All visits are to be planned and organised in advance with the PIC. The visiting procedures and safety protocols in place in each service will continue to be completed with all visitors as it is currently.

To ensure safe visits can take place all visitors will be expected to follow the house specific visiting protocols in place and all visits must be organised in advance with the PIC of the service.

Should there be an outbreak of COVID in any of our services a risk assessment will take place, and this may result in changes to the above visiting arrangements.

Acknowledgement and Reassurance

We have ensured Christmas visits can still take place as planned subject to individual risk assessments. We will maintain safety protocols and practices whilst ensuring everyone can have a safe and enjoyable Christmas with their families and loved ones. Restrictions will then commence at level 5 on the 27th December. We will continue to be creative in all our efforts to maintain family connections and communications during this time. This includes but is not limited to facilitating video calls, telephone calls, sending pictures, writing letters/emails and providing regular updates to families.

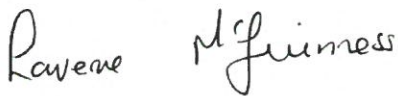
I am attaching a link below to the Government Guidance for your information :

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/a1f21-ireland-placed-on-level-5-restrictions-of-the-plan-for-living-with-covid-19-with-a-number-of-specific-adjustments/>

I would like to assure you that our Steering Group continues to monitor the evolving situation on an ongoing basis with all relevant authorities and we will amend and adapt our protocols to reflect national guidance and any changes as required.

We wish to thank you for your ongoing understanding, collaboration, and patience at this time. May I take this opportunity of wishing you and your family a Very Happy and a Safe Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Ms. Laverne McGuinness
Chief Executive Officer