

Talbot Group
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Date: 2nd December 2020

Re: Message from the CEO – Coronavirus and Government Restrictions

Dear Resident, Family Member and Staff

I am writing to update you about the current situation of Coronavirus and to outline the actions we are taking as an organisation to prevent it from spreading. As you are aware the Government placed the country in Level Five Restrictions for a six-week period, which ended on the 1st December. The Government has now reduced this to a Level 3 category.

We wish to ensure that all our residents have the opportunity to have a meaningful Christmas with their families. It remains important here in the Talbot Group that we keep our services free of the virus and ensure safety for both the residents and staff teams. The following arrangements are aimed at ensuring the potential spread of COVID-19 is managed and kept low whilst also ensuring a meaningful Christmas for all residents. Both home visits and visits to services can take place subject to a risk assessment.

1. Home leave

Home leave can take place subject to individual risk assessments. Home leave is only permitted where families agree to follow the government guidelines in place whilst their loved ones are in their care. We will be seeking consent from families that they will be adhering to the government guidelines issued for the Christmas period prior to a resident going on home leave. Every home leave visit will be subject to an individual risk assessment and control measures specified for that resident. This will include commitment from families and the Talbot Group. Depending on duration of the visit such as overnight stays the risk assessment will identify whether a covid-19 negative test is required prior to returning to Talbot Group. In situations where this is not required control measures on returning to the service must be followed and will be specific to each individual. The PIC is responsible for completing the individual risk assessment for each resident.

Visits

During Level 3 the following arrangements will be apply:

Level 3	Visiting
All Services Visits During level 3 Where there is no outbreak of Covid-19	<p>All visits are subject to individual risk assessments and under level Three options for visiting include.</p> <p>There can be garden visiting with up to 2 people for 1 hour, utilising PPE and implementing social distancing at all times.</p> <p>Additionally, on critical and compassionate grounds (the Christmas period will be treated as compassionate grounds), there can be one-hour room visits (residents' individual bedroom or one allocated room with additional infection control measures in place). We would like to limit visits where possible leading up to the Christmas period to ensure safe visiting can take place over the Christmas period. However where residents wish to have visits we will accommodate them within the guidelines.</p> <p>All visits are to be planned and organised in advance with the PIC. This should include one family per day and an identified two people. The visiting procedures and safety protocols in place in each service will continue to be completed with all visitors as it is currently.</p> <p><u>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.</u></p> <p><u>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.</u></p>

Acknowledgement and Reassurance

Whilst we have eased the restrictions in line with Government guidelines, we need to have preventive safety measures in place to minimise the risk of infection. We will maintain safety protocols and practices whilst ensuring everyone can have a safe and meaningful Christmas period with their families and loved ones. We will continue to be creative in all our efforts to maintain important family connections and communications during this time. This includes but is not exhaustive to facilitating video calls, telephone calls, sending pictures, writing letters/emails and providing regular updates to families.

We assure you that our Steering Group continue 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.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Laverne McGuinness
Chief Executive Officer