

## **Abbey Care Covid-19 Statement**

We are following and implementing all advice and guidelines provided by the UK Government, Public Health England (PHE), CQC, UKHCA, National Health Service (NHS) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE). We are regularly monitoring the situation and are continually communicating with our team to provide updates and advice on policies and procedures as new information becomes available.

We are working hard to maintain a Covid-free Abbey Care community. We would be grateful in return, that if any Clients or household members display any of the symptoms of the virus, such as a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, that you immediately inform us so that appropriate action can be taken. If any of our staff, or their household members, display any symptoms of Covid they are self-isolating until they receive a negative test. If they were to receive a positive test they will not return to work until they are well again. All staff also take a weekly PCR test to minimise risk. 90% of our staff are being vaccinated.

When we provide personal care which requires the care worker to be in direct contact with the Client e.g. touching OR the care worker is within 2 metres of anyone in the household who is coughing, the care worker will wear disposable gloves and an apron and a surgical face mask. Eye protection will be worn for the care of some clients where there is a risk of droplets or secretions from the client's mouth, nose or lungs or from body fluids reaching the eyes.

If our care visit does not require us to touch the client but we need to be within 2 metres of the client e.g. medication administration or preparing and serving meals, the care worker will wear a surgical face mask and disposable gloves.

Hand hygiene will be performed immediately before every episode of care and after any activity or contact that potentially results in the care workers hands becoming contaminated.

Some Clients are "clinically extremely vulnerable" and require "shielding". This may be because they have certain serious health conditions, such as those with some types of cancer, lung diseases and with suppressed immune systems. They are considered extremely vulnerable and if they caught Covid-19 it might cause serious illness or death. Shielding is a measure to protect people who are extremely vulnerable by minimising all interaction between them and others. Clients who are shielding will have received a letter telling them that they are shielding and the local authority and the client's GP will also be aware. If we provide care to a client that is shielding we will wear a disposable apron and gloves and a surgical face mask and maintain excellent hand hygiene to minimise risk.