



Hillside Care Home

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To : All Family & Friends of Hillside Care Home
From : Gareth Bamsey

8th January 2021

Subject: **Hillside Care Home – Update**

Dear 'Family & Friends of Hillside Care Home'

Covid-19 Vaccination

I am really, really pleased to let you know that all residents at Hillside (*bar one (see below)*) have now received the Oxford-AstraZeneca Vaccine. One of our local surgeries came in today and the Doctor vaccinated all of those residents who could have the vaccine.

This is a very important and key milestone. This first dose itself should afford a reasonable level of protection across most residents after approximately two weeks or so (*estimates are about 70% protection - Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)*). As you're probably aware, the 2nd dose is likely to be delivered up to 12 weeks after as opposed to the originally planned 3 weeks. Please remember that having the vaccine does not mean that someone will definitely not ever catch the virus, but it does mean that it is much less likely, and apparently, less severe if someone does still catch Covid. After the 2nd dose it provides over 95% protection. At this time, roughly 60% of the Staff Team have also been vaccinated.

The only individual not to be vaccinated was our new resident who recently caught Covid-19 in the community prior to moving into Hillside (*testing negative before moving in and then testing positive three days later*). He has now fully recovered from the disease and will have developed a level of immunity naturally. As a routine, individuals who have had Covid-19 need to wait for at least 6 weeks after recovery prior to receiving any vaccination. I am very proud of the fact that the staff team have again managed to contain the disease and ensure that no other residents were infected.

At present, all residents have tested negative and no residents are showing any symptoms.

Covid-19 Status Update

We have had one Carer test positive on the 31st December who has also then had symptoms and is now recovering. Given that she tested negative on the 28th December and her last shift was the 27th December she has not presented a contagion risk at all.

Moving Forward

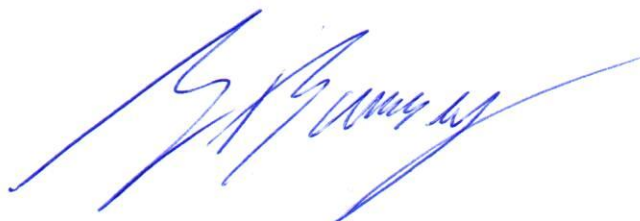
I am currently unaware of any issued Guidance from the Government, Public Health Wales or the various Regulatory agencies in respect to recommended visiting arrangements for Care Homes where residents have all been vaccinated. This is likely to change over the next few weeks and should hopefully inform our view and plans into the future.

At this moment in time, given that the pandemic is raging so intensely and that Residents' immune responses are going to take a few weeks to develop, we will continue to keep the care home in a state of 'Lock Down.' That means all but essential visits, such as end of life, are still curtailed. However, I will write to you again around the end of January and outline the visiting plans and arrangements moving forward.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above then please do not hesitate to speak with Margaret, Lissy or myself. The entire team and myself have really appreciated your kind words and support. It has been hard and stressful for everyone this past year and so the kindness and supportive words that we have received from so many families really have made a difference.

Let's now hope that 2021 proves to be a much better year for residents, for you and for the staff team and that all of our lives return to a sense of joyful normality in the not too distant future.

Warm regards



Gareth Bamsey
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P.S. If you wish to provide any feedback on Hillside and the team then please visit carehome.co.uk as family feedback drives the home's profile and rating