

Hi Darren, hope you're remaining well.

We recognise the challenge for residential care home operators and the risk of introduction of infection through visitors, residents or staff. We are following/promoting the Public Health England guidance for residential care homes and the guidance published by the British Geriatric Society (which I've attached). The key elements of this are early recognition of signs and symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection, with recognition that presentation can be atypical in older people, and isolation of any affected residents with the use of personal protective equipment by staff.

New residents, should similarly be assessed for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 infection and those affected isolated as appropriate.

If new residents (or existing residents) do not have any symptoms prior to admission, there is no value in testing for the presence of the coronavirus. The test is designed for patients with symptoms and therefore we don't routinely test new residents prior to admission.

I hope that's helpful and let me know if you need any more information.

Very best wishes
Tracey

From: Millar, Darren (Aelod Cynulliad | Assembly Member) <Darren.Millar@assembly.wales>
Sent: 28 March 2020 21:08
To: Tracey Cooper (Public Health Wales - No. 2 Capital Quarter) <Tracey.Cooper3@wales.nhs.uk>
Subject: COVID-19 Testings - Care Home Admissions

Dear Tracey,

I have been contacted by a number of care home operators and managers expressing concerns that new residents are not required to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission.

As you are aware, residents in care homes are amongst the most vulnerable to COVID-19 and the introduction of the disease into a home could constitute a significant risk.

Given the above, I would be most grateful if you could advise as to whether routine testing of new residents, prior to admission, will take place and, if not, why this will not be the case.

Many thanks,

Darren

Darren Millar AM/AC
Clwyd West/Gorllewin Clwyd