

Dear resident or relative of resident in

Irrelevant & Sensitive

You are all extremely aware of the current crisis and the risk to our older people. Things are moving quickly and a lot changing day by day but I wanted to write to you today to explain our current position. An outbreak of covid-19 at [Irrelevant & Sensitive] would likely be catastrophic for many. In order to reduce the chance of this happening we are putting in place a number of plans to try and reduce the risk to our patients. We need your support and understanding to implement them.

As GP's we are both at high risk of catching Covid-19 and at risk of being asymptomatic carriers for a number of days prior to showing symptoms. This means that we need to minimise patient contact to all unless absolutely essential. We will therefore be working with the care home to try and implement a virtual ward round, by phone and using our trained staff at [I&S]

[I&S] take essential reading, such as temperature, BP etc. If a GP feels it is essential to come to the home they will wear a mask, apron and gloves prior to seeing the patient, but we will only come for absolutely essential things in order to protect all residents as much as possible.

We are asking you not to request visit for simple things that can be dealt with over the phone. We ask that everyone complies with the homes policy on visiting. In the event of your relative becoming unwell we will reconsider the visiting policy for you and your family if possible.

Now comes the difficult bit, isolating patients with dementia for example is extremely difficult. If we get an outbreak at the home it is likely that most residents will catch it and it will result in a number of deaths.

We wanted to let you know that we will not abandon you or your relatives but we need to be frank with you regarding the realistic outcome if they become ill with covid-19. We would plan to continue to nurse our patients in [I&S] and not to transfer them to hospital. Sadly if they are so unwell as to require breathing support from a ventilator it is unlikely that given their frailty they would survive. Transfer to hospital causes risk of contact with other infections, disorientation and distress and so we will avoid if at all possible. Instead if a resident becomes unwell we will endeavor, with our [I&S] Staff, to provide the best supportive care we can. We feel the only situations where our residents should risk being admitted to hospital would be in the case of a large bone fracture such as a broken hip from a fall or other non covid sudden serious condition which can be successfully managed at hospital.

I hope you believe these plans are reasonable and appropriate in view of this unprecedented situation we find ourselves in. Thank you for your consideration and please keep yourselves and your love ones safe and well.

With kindest regards

Personal Data