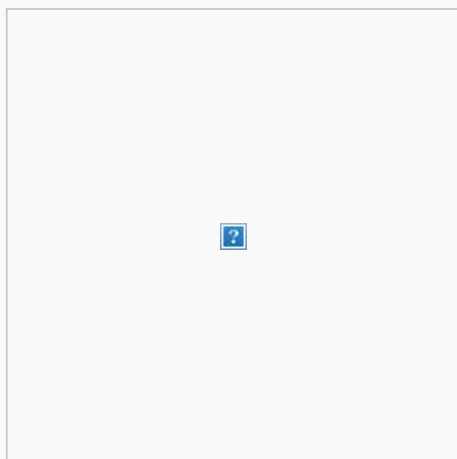


From: Tadhg Daly
To: [Fiona Kenny](#)
Subject: Covid-19 / Coronavirus update re visitor policy
Date: Wednesday 11 March 2020 15:18:46

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Dear Member,

NHI reiterates the guidance it provided last Friday with regard to Covid-19 / Coronavirus. The virus presents an unprecedented situation for nursing homes and the protection of residents is of paramount concern for all nursing homes.

The guidance provided last Friday, which was disseminated to the public, [can be read again here](#). It informed for the protection of residents, nursing homes nationwide would be implementing visitor restrictions. We stated non-essential visits and visits by children and groups would not be permitted. It is a matter for each individual nursing home to have a procedure in place that it deems appropriate and in the best interests of its residents and staff.

This guidance was informed by our National Nursing Committee and we thank them for their continuous support during this period.

We are urging all nursing homes to consider how non-contact engagement can be facilitated. Facetime provides technology that facilitates communication by screen and Skype is also a key technology in such regard. WhatsApp also provides means for face-to-face calls. Be cognisant of the importance of contact between the resident and their family / friends and support such.

NHI has undertaken extensive engagement with media to inform the procedures being implemented by private and voluntary nursing homes are in the best interests of residents.

We take this opportunity to remind of the legislation as per the Care and Welfare Regulations. Regulation 11.2 (a) (i) stipulates:

Visits

11. (1) The registered provider shall make arrangements for a resident to

receive visitors.

(2) The person in charge shall ensure that—

(a) in so far as is reasonably practicable, visits to a resident are not restricted, unless—

(i) **such a visit would, in the opinion of the person in charge, pose a risk to the resident concerned or to another resident, or**

(ii) the resident concerned has requested the restriction of visits.

We appreciate the present situation presents unprecedented challenges for nursing homes. Within NHI, we have received numerous calls from Members and the public and we are providing guidance, advice and information, reiterating the actions being undertaken are with the best interest of residents in mind. International news reports inform of the gravity of the situation that can present if a Coronavirus case presents within a nursing home.

As ever, we ask Members to be cognisant of the importance of compassion and understanding in engaging with families and friends of residents. Restricted / non-access presents upset for people and it is important to inform the action undertaken by the nursing home is with the best interest of residents being the primary consideration.

NHI will be reaching out to Members to ask the measures being undertaken within nursing homes to support the wellbeing of residents during this difficult period and we will share detail regarding measures being undertaken with all.

Yours,
Tadhg Daly,
CEO



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