

██████████  
██████████  
63 Sean Mc Dermott Street  
Dublin 1



Phone 353 1 8711108  
██████████  
██████████

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

I am writing to give you a further update on the current situation in relation to COVID - 19 in the Nursing Home. As you will be aware there has been a lot of media coverage around the outbreaks in Nursing Homes and this has led to a significant change in the Governments approach to management of cases in the residential care sector.

The Minister for Health Simon Harris announced at the end of last week that all residents and staff in Nursing Homes would be swabbed in the following 10 days, in an effort to reduce the spread.

I can confirm that all residents who had not been previously swabbed were tested last Tuesday. Staff on duty were also swabbed and the remaining staff who were not on duty are being tested in the Croke park testing centre. We have yet to receive any results but are hopeful that this will provide us with a clearer picture of any additional Infection Precaution and Control measures that would be beneficial in managing the virus.

Of the positive cases I am pleased to say that most have mild symptoms and are recovering well. Some are now asymptomatic. A small number are requiring additional supports to manage their symptoms, but nobody has required hospitalisation.

We continue to receive excellent support from our GP's ██████████ and ██████████ through video call consultations and site visits when required. The HSE remain in daily contact to provide advice and information on the latest changes in management of the virus.

HIQA this week have published a “Regulatory Assessment Framework of Preparedness of Designated Centres for Older People for a COVID – 19 Outbreak”. This assessment has been completed in house for Beechlawm and has not highlighted any areas where action is required.

The staff remain extremely committed to the residents, putting their own fears and concerns aside to ensure that the residents remain at the centre of everything that we are doing. We are on some days working with slightly reduced staffing levels due to staff absences. These levels, although lower than we would normally provide, continue to be at an acceptable level for the dependency and the current occupancy level. Where possible we have re-deployed staff from other roles within the Nursing Home to ensure that the standard of care remains high. On a daily basis the routine is reviewed by the Director of Nursing so that all essential areas of care are prioritised.

All clinical staff are wearing full PPE for both their protection and that of the residents and I can confirm that we currently have a good supply arriving regularly from the HSE.

We have re-introduced 2 mealtimes each day to ensure that staff have adequate time to spend with residents who may need a little more assistance at this time. The catering staff are providing fortified meals to ensure that everyone is receiving maximum nutrition. They are also providing fortified soup, jelly, and ice cream and milk puddings for those who may not want or be able to eat a full meal and these are available 24 hrs a day.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your continued support of the staff and their efforts to manage this very difficult situation. I acknowledge that in lots of ways this situation is as hard for you out there as it is for us in here, and your faith in the Nursing Home Team is very much appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any clarification.

Yours Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.Two black rectangular redaction boxes covering contact information, one above the other.