

Covid Infection Control Measures

In addition to references to infection and control elsewhere in this briefing, all colleagues are reminded of their personal responsibility to ensure that they operate safely and in accordance with all local and national guidance and policies in place.

The wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) remains mandatory in all residential and supported living settings. Failure to comply with this requirement could lead to disciplinary action.

All colleagues are expected to continue to familiarise themselves with the Covid Infection Control measures that are relevant to their workplace.

Assessments and Placements

National Care Group will continue to work collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the assessment and placement of individuals within services is managed safely and in accordance with prevailing local or national transmission rates.



Colleague Wellbeing

National Care Group acknowledges the potential risk to everyone's health and wellbeing arising from the pandemic.

All colleagues are reminded of the need to be sensitive to the impact the pandemic may continue to have on the individuals we support and to ensure that any changes in engagement or normal reactions are monitored and reported to their line manager as soon as necessary.

Colleagues are encouraged to talk in confidence to their line manager if, at any time, they themselves, feel that they need any additional support.

In addition, National Care Group has implemented several Employee Assistance initiatives to support colleagues including Mental Health First Aid Training and Menopause Awareness Training.

Oversight

The National Care Group Executive Team will continue to meet daily until further notice to review any issues that may arise.

The Covid Risk Committee will continue to meet fortnightly to provide the necessary oversight and leadership.

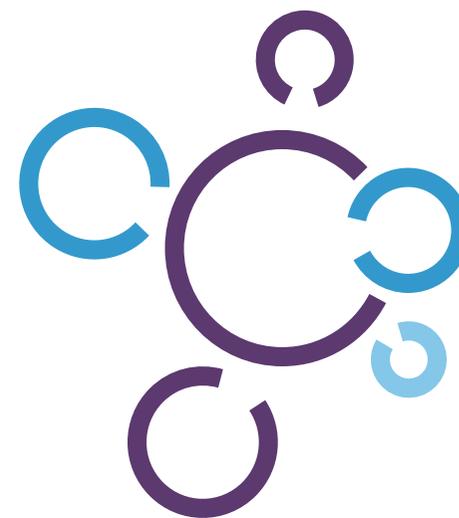
Monthly reports will continue to be presented to the National Care Group Board to ensure that it can be assured that governance arrangements are in place and are robust and relevant.

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#QualityMatters

Keeping staff up to date with changes or requirements taking place within the care sector.



COVID-19

COVID-19 Managing Covid 19 Safely

Mike Cleasby,
Quality Director of NCG

Overview

It is clear that for some time to come Covid 19 will continue to present a risk to us all. This is despite the great efforts of all colleagues and the individuals we support to keep everyone safe.

This edition of #Quality Matters is intended to brief everyone on the approach that will continue across National Care Group for the foreseeable future. We need to move forward together but in a manner that continues to keep everyone safe and well.

At all times decision making across National Care Group has followed the Covid-19 ethical framework for adult social care, which was widely circulated to all line managers in March 2020. This will continue to guide us in our decision making.

Covid Vaccination

National Care Group sees the Covid Vaccination Programme as a key element of the approach to keep everyone safe. All new colleagues are now expected to be fully vaccinated irrespective of the setting within which they hope to work. Existing colleagues within residential settings are required by law to be fully vaccinated and National Care Group will encourage those in other settings to consider the benefits of being vaccinated if that decision has not already been made by them.

Records of the vaccination status of all colleagues are kept centrally to give the assurance that progress already made on this key part of our approach is sustained for colleagues and the individuals we support. This will include records of booster vaccinations as they are provided.

National Care Group has written directly to all colleagues giving them advice on and a direct link to the national vaccine booster website.

Flu Vaccination

National Care Group has supported and will continue to support, national initiatives focused on encouraging everyone to have a flu vaccination.

This is not a compulsory requirement but protecting the health and well being of all is seen as essential particularly at a time where Covid 19 remains a real risk.

National Care Group has written directly to all colleagues encouraging them to get the flu vaccine which is available to all frontline social care staff.

National Care Group Covid Response Plan

The National Care Group Covid Response Plan will continue to remain in place and operational. It sets out the overarching plan to manage the organisations response to the pandemic and is regularly reviewed.

Copies of the National Care Group Covid Plan are available for review from your line manager.

National Care Group Policies and Procedures

National Care Group implemented a Coronavirus Covid 19 Policy at the beginning of the pandemic. This is regularly reviewed and is available to all colleagues via the Intranet.

The National Care Group Infection Control Policy has been amended to reflect additional requirements arising from Covid.

All other policies have been amended as relevant to reflect changes that have presented as the pandemic progressed.

All colleagues are reminded of the need to be sensitive to the impact the pandemic may continue to have on individuals we support, and to ensure that any changes in engagement or normal reactions are monitored and reported to their line manager as soon as necessary.

Learning and Development

Opportunities to deliver learning and development remotely will continue where practicable and sensible. Increasingly and where required, more face-to-face learning is now returning and will be delivered. Where face-to-face training takes place, this will be delivered in accordance with Covid infection control measures and procedures in place.

Learning and development in respect of infection control has been revised to reflect additional requirements arising from Covid.

Communication and Meetings

Regular briefings continue to be circulated both nationally and locally within National Care Group. Opportunities to communicate important messages directly with colleagues through email will continue. Communication with individuals we support, and their families will continue to be via letter circulated via the local management team.

Easy read versions of key communications have and will continue to be produced.

Whilst it is likely face to face meetings will increasingly return the use of video conferencing where appropriate will be encouraged as a way of more effectively using time and reducing travel time.

Where face to face meetings do take place in offices or facilities operated by National Care Group, it is expected that these will be managed in accordance with expected Covid infection control measures and procedures.

