



Despite the easing of the national lockdown, coronavirus (Covid-19) continues in local communities and we must all remain extremely vigilant, taking all necessary precautions. As you'll be aware, care homes have come under the spotlight in recent months, more particular in comparison with the NHS, accepting new residents and also their use of agency staff.

### Use of agency staff

Whilst it's clear that the less comings & goings of staff is preferable, it's also clear that care & nursing homes need the correct level of appropriately trained staff, especially when members of their permanent are off sick or self-isolating. Although the use of agency staff was questioned, it's also fair to say they provided a vital role and with the correct procedures in place, posed a relatively low risk.

That said, the risk for all staff is only minimised if the correct guidance is adhered to and so please rest assured, we have policies in place not only to protect our staff, but also our clients and their residents who continue to be one of the most vulnerable.

### Current Care101 C-19 procedures

The risk today remains very real and we continue ask our staff to follow this guidance...

- Monitor their own health. If they feel unwell contact us before proceeding to work. If they feel unwell during the shift, to contact the most senior person & then us.
- Report any resident or colleague who they believe shows any symptoms and therefore may potentially pose a risk to them or others.
- Remember & implement all infection control procedures.
- Use all appropriate PPE where necessary and in situations where they think it appropriate. This includes the use of face masks & face shields.

We have supplied face shields to our staff and have additional PPE available if our staff require it.

*We ask home managers to consider more stringent measures for agency staff in order to better protect residents, permanent and agency staff, especially when they are asked to work ad-hoc shifts.*

- Do not travel in their uniform. Change at the beginning & end of each shift.
- Minimise risk on public transport. Where appropriate we will look to provide assistance with transport.
- Minimise their movement between homes.

We aim to keep staff with the same client, or small group of clients as appropriate. Where possible we ask clients to block book in advance so we can ensure the same staff are available.

## Local staff for local homes

We continue to monitor the ongoing situation and are prioritising clients who are local to our area and where our staff live. This helps minimise the need for excessive travel and therefore minimises risk.

*Please remember that despite the lockdown ending, the risk from Coronavirus actually remains the same – and could become worse if people forget it hasn't gone away.*

*We must all be vigilant and mindful for our own protection and that of others in our care.*