

COVID19

Good Practice for Care Homes

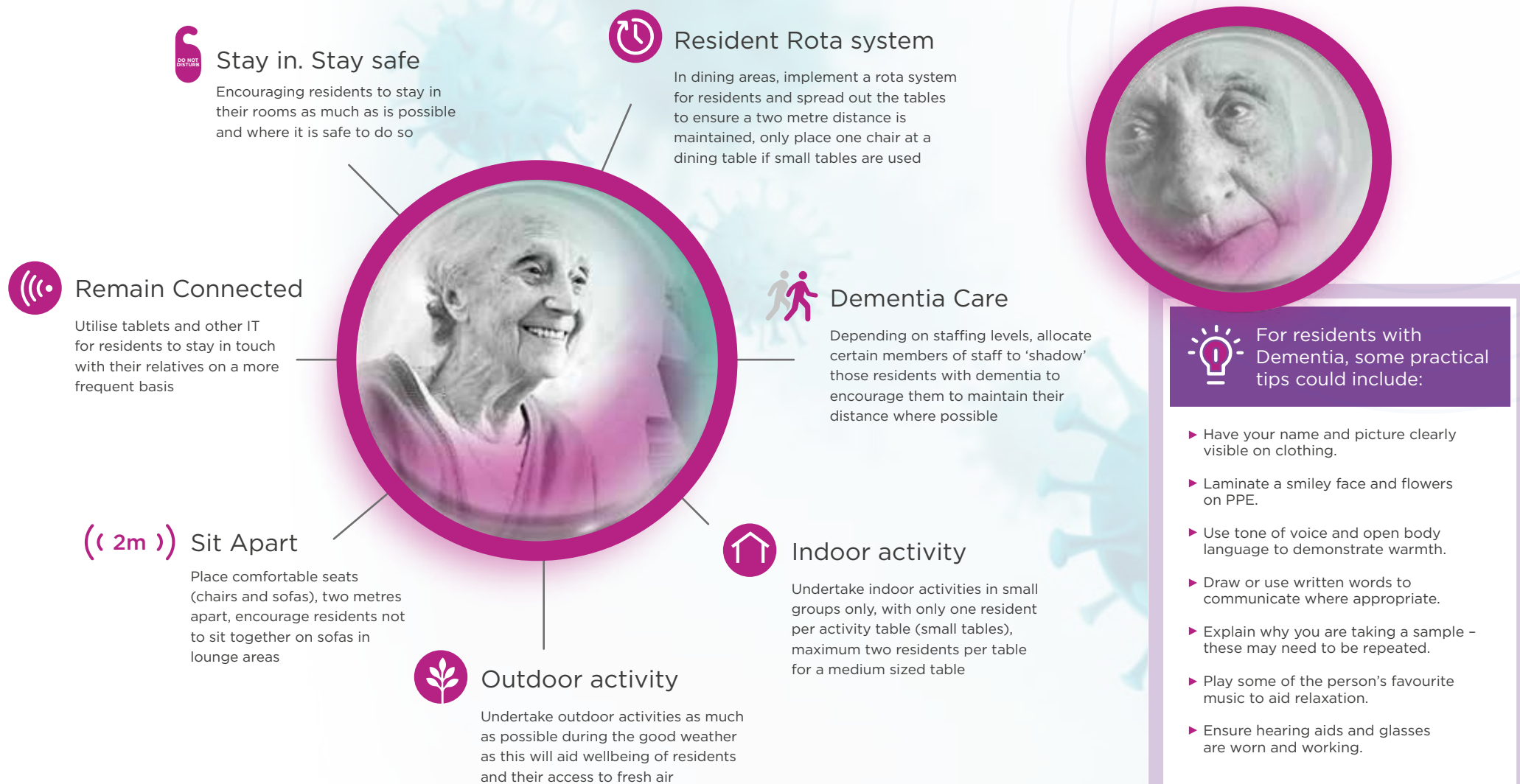


This document **MUST** be read in conjunction with the latest version of the Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Care Homes and the Frequently Asked Questions documents produced by the Health Protection Team from Stockport Council.

For further information, please refer to the links at the end of this document

Methods of Social Distancing

In homes where we have been notified that there have been no cases of COVID19, we asked how they undertook social distancing within their home. Some suggestions are:



Staffing

In homes where we have been notified that there have been no cases of COVID19, we asked how they managed the use of their existing staff and also the use of agency staff. Some suggestions are:



Minimise

Reduce the use of agency staff where at all possible



Block book

If agency staff are required, block book them and allocate them to a specific area / unit of the home



Clever staffing

If only adhoc shift coverage is required, attempt to fill this in house before requesting agency staff



Transfers

Try not to transfer staff between homes



Contingency measures

If existing staff are unwilling to cover extra shifts, undertake the following:

- Ensure the agency staff member does not have any symptoms
- Ensure that no one in their immediate household is symptomatic
- Ensure that they are NOT meant to be shielding due to existing medical at risk conditions



Segmentation

Allocate staff to particular units / floors, treat these floors / units as standalone homes and prevent staff from mixing between the units / floors



Isolation

Staff (including any agency staff) must be isolated if they start with any symptoms for 7days from the onset of their symptoms and their family members for 14days from the onset of the symptoms. Tests can be arranged through:

testing@stockport.gov.uk, or through the keyworker portal

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>
External Visitors to the Home (including visiting professionals)



External Visitors to the Home (including visiting professionals)

In homes where we have been notified that there have been no cases of COVID19, we asked how they managed external visitors to the home (including visiting professionals). Some suggestions are:



Control Visiting

If not already, stop all unnecessary relatives / visitors to the home



Offer Virtual Visiting

Utilise tablets and other IT for residents to stay in touch with their relatives on a more frequent basis



Remote GP

Use video conferencing or calls for GP visits



Zoom in

Use video conferencing technology such as ZOOM / Microsoft TEAMS for non essential health and social care reviews



Drive through

Consider a drive thru visiting service if staffing levels and the weather allows:

(<https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/drive-thru-visits-doncaster-care-18268965>)



Contingency measures

If visits from Health Professionals are still required such as District Nurses for Insulin injections or wound / pressure ulcer care, ensure the following:

- Your staff maintain social distancing at all times
- Your staff are wearing PPE according to the guidelines
- Ensure the health and social care professional also wears the appropriate PPE whilst in the home
- Ensure that they dispose of their PPE prior to leaving the premises according to guidelines. They may require access to a small amount of PPE before leaving the premises. Please assist them with this.
- Ensure that there is full access to hand hygiene facilities such as alcohol hand gel, soap and paper towels

Admissions into the Home

In homes where we have been notified that there have been no cases of COVID19, we asked how they managed external visitors to the home (including visiting professionals). Some suggestions are:

48hr

Testing

All discharges from hospital settings should be tested 48hrs prior to admission



Continuity

If an isolation period has started whilst in the hospital, this must continue for the remainder of the 14days on admission



Isolation

It is good practice to isolate all residents on admission to the home for 14days to ensure that they remain isolated if they commence with symptoms. This will also ensure that if they are asymptomatic carriers, that the risk of other residents within the home is reduced to a minimum.



Test pre-admission

If a new resident requires admission from the community, they can be tested beforehand through one of the drive thru sites and one of their family members needs to drive them through the testing site. These tests can be arranged by emailing testing@stockport.gov.uk

If the above cannot be arranged, then the resident can be admitted to the home, BUT must be isolated on admission and the home can then arrange for the testing to happen as part of the mass testing approach through the care home portal



Personal Protective Equipment

Refer to the latest version of the Infection Prevention & Control guidance



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Further Information available from:

<https://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879639/covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-how-to-work-safely-in-care-homes>

<https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/covid-19-managing-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-care-homes>