

**Department of Health and Wellbeing  
Bev Maybury – Strategic Director**

## **Visiting Professionals Statement**

Dear Provider,

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the priority of the Government and indeed the aim of the local authority have been for everyone who relies on care to receive the care and support they need. Further to the recent government announcement setting out a programme of repeat testing for COVID-19 within care homes, whereby staff will undergo testing every 7 days and residents every 28 days, I am wishing to clarify our position on visiting professionals – falling under the category of “essential” visitors.

In respect of the testing, I am awaiting further guidance and information from government on the practicalities of implementation locally, particularly in reference to visiting staff. In the interim, if professionals such as community nurses, GPs, advocates, ambulance services, chiropodists, occupational therapists, social workers etc. are visiting your home to deliver services or support the health and wellbeing of residents, their request should be accommodated and they allowed entry as per business as usual. By adopting a pragmatic approach, this allows our fellow professional to effectively carry out their duties. It is vital you continue to follow the procedures in place to ensure they are undertaking the correct infection prevention and control (IPC) processes prior to staff admission into the premises, including wearing the appropriate PPE and ensuring they are not displaying any symptoms.

As time progresses, along with our partners I will continue to update local processes. The expectation is for all regular visiting professionals to undertake routine systematic testing on a weekly basis and I am pleased to confirm the BDCT have now commenced with weekly staff testing for Community Nurses and Mental Health staff, providing additional positive assurance. However, to be clear, in the absence of a recent covid-19 test the professional should be trusted and not prevented from giving care, with all necessary IPC precautions being undertaken.

I will continue to monitor the situation and work with you to overcome any concerns. Lastly, I would like to thank you for your continued unwavering support during these challenging times.

Best wishes



Bev Maybury

