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| **Update No. 5 from The Meadows Week Ending -> 19/04/2020** |

* Welcome to Update number 5. For anyone who didn’t receive the 4 previous updates, please email me and I would send them out again. I apologise for the late issue of this update caused in the main by the extra work brought forth by the pandemic.
* Newsflash:
* Coronavirus has hit 2000 Care Homes in the UK. Nationally more than 15,500 people in hospital (not including those who passed away at home or in Care Homes) have sadly passed away. Worldwide, the death toll is 161,000, and it is feared that the true figures are yet to be released. Fortunately, we continue to be virus free at The Meadows, but given the gravity of the pandemic and the number of deaths, we can’t drop our guard as we are told that the worse is yet to come, with waves after waves of infections.
* What are we doing to be effective to protect both staff and residents?
* Staff are consistent in their approach not to let anyone into the Home
* Telephone conference takes place with professionals and staff including training seminars
* To avoid any shortage, a large order for PPE is placed on a weekly basis with our suppliers
* Staff wear masks to prevent sustained community transmission from staff to residents
* Staff wear masks when leaving work on their way back home and likewise when returning to work
* Staff are provided with PPE training, and the proper application of PPE equipment
* Staff wear different indoor shoes when on duty and different outdoor shoes when going home
* Staff temperature and basic clinical presentation at work are monitored twice daily
* As soon as there is any abnormality which indicates the possibility of Covid-19, staff are sent home. To date we have 2 members of staff self-isolating at home and 1 staff stranded abroad.
* Staff remain in isolation at home until they are symptoms free
* Staff wash their hands with antibacterial soap at least every half an hour & after each intervention
* Staff follow the government guidance to stay at home when off-duty to remain safe and well
* Rigorous cleaning and decontamination of all communal and personal areas are carried out daily
* Resident’s hands are washed before each meal and snack time
* The kitchen and dining room are disinfected with antibacterial spray after each sitting
* All containers being delivered to the Home including milk are washed before storage in the fridge
* Clinical Frailty Scale: This is now implemented by the NHS. It dictates whether someone suffering from Covid-19 gets on a ventilator or not. Though it would appear that the chances of an Elderly Person with Dementia getting on a ventilator is next to impossible, this is being met with a lot of challenges.
* The good news is that in the UK we appear to have reached the plateau of the rate of infection, but the bad news is that the number of deaths in Care Homes for the Elderly continue to increase by day. The Office of National Statistics claim that hundreds have passed away in London alone, with 217 recorded deaths in the week ending 3rd April. Amidst all this, Age UK and other charities have written to the Heath Secretary Matt Hancock, branding social care “the neglected front line” in the virus pandemic. Sadly, with this we have to also bear a thought to both the nurses and carers in Social Care who have contracted the virus in line of duty, lost their lives and left loved ones behind, including very young children. It is acknowledged that at last care staff can be tested at a drive through centre provided they can drive. In an interview with the BBC, I reported that there are shortcomings in the facility because less than 2% of care staff drive in London, a fact which constricts the large majority of care staff to get tested compounded by the lack of test centres locally.
* On a more positive note, I trust and hope that by now you are all familiar with our Facebook page ‘The Meadows Residential Care Home’. Please don’t hesitate to register and check on your relatives.
* The appeal to donate towards the Interactive electronic gadget for the residents to be able to communicate with their loved ones during these trying times raised £1,150 from 7 contributors. We were aiming to raise 50% of the overall cost, i.e. £3,500 of the £7k needed, but we fell very short of our goal. However, together with the initial 50% invested, I have decided to chip in and make up for the other missing £2,350 to make the facility of image-link on a large screen available to our residents to enable them to communicate with their loved ones. To the 7 relatives who have contributed, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you. I will email each one of you individually very soon to thank you personally. Your contribution is much appreciated. As we move ahead, I hope everyone will see the benefit of this interactive device. Please note that the order has been placed and hopefully we should be receiving it very soon. Hope to have better news next time. Ian Somauroo