

Homes for Older Persons

Phase 1 –

Internal Socializing

It is being recommended that as from today **9th June 2020** the Homes can start lifting some measures within the Residential facilities.

The Homes are to resume activities within the Homes.

Older Persons can socialise in common areas without being limited to their respective rooms or floors.

Additionally, Medical Professionals and Allied Health Care Professionals can resume their professional services within the Homes, subject to the use of masks/visors together with aprons, gloves and any other PPEs that may be indicated. Such visits are to be done by appointment.

Phase 2 -

Visits by relatives / other visitors in Homes

It is being recommended that as from **18th June 2020**, the Homes can allow relatives to visit without the use of Perspex/Glass barriers.

Each Head of Home (HOH) is to identify a spacious and well-ventilated area where relatives / other visitors can visit the resident.

IMPORTANT – you are to inform SCSA of the identified area and the visiting time prior to the 15th June.

The visitors' area must consist of a comfortable armchair for the resident (to be reviewed if the resident is a wheelchair user) and two chairs for the visitors. Other sets of seating arrangements can be added depending on the size of the area. Allow 12 square metres for each set of seating arrangements.

Armchairs and tables should have a washable surface/seat and should not be made of woolen fabrics or other materials that cannot be sanitized after each visit /use by residents or relatives .If possible, contact surfaces such as tables must be avoided to minimize contamination as much as possible.

A Healthcare Worker (HCW) will coordinate the transfer of residents to and from the visiting area.

There should be 2 meters between the resident and the visitor, ideally, the floor should be marked.

HOH need to ensure that the screening of visitors for fever and symptoms is conducted fully.

It is the responsibility of the HOH to make sure that the resident is provided with a surgical mask or visor and that these are worn appropriately during the visit.

Special note on masks and visors Face masks or visors should NOT be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing; or on anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a mask or visor without assistance.

The number of visitors at one go shall be limited by giving appointments to the relatives. Only two visitors per resident are allowed, and the duration of the visit should be between 15 and 25 minutes.

Appointment given should be fairly distributed. During scheduling of appointments, visitors are instructed not to attend if they have any symptoms that fall under the case definition of COVID-19 or feeling unwell.

Visitors should not visit the Care Home if feeling unwell.

Visitors shall wear surgical face mask or face visor at all times during the visit. It is the responsibility of the visitor to get the necessary surgical face mask or/and face visor.

Screening including temperature and questionnaire must also be performed, and visitors must sign that s/he is free from any symptoms. After conducting the screening one must instruct the visitors to perform hand hygiene by making use of the alcohol hand hub present near the Care Home main door.

When a resident is in quarantine or suspected of COVID-19 swabbed and awaiting result, visitors of the concerned resident are not allowed to visit. Visitors must be informed beforehand about this action.

The area chosen for physical visits should be supervised by a HCW to make sure that all procedures all being followed.

In this designated area contact surfaces such as tables must be avoided to minimize contamination as much as possible.

Visitors must be aware that physical contact such as kissing and hugging is not allowed, this is prohibited so that we can protect the residents as much as possible. The usual social distancing measure must be respected.

Items such as packed food items should go through the usual process of cleaning and not given directly to the resident.

Before and after the visit, residents must be encouraged to perform hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rubs.

It is the responsibility of the cleaning staff to make sure that the area used for visits is frequently cleaned.

Additionally, services requested by older persons such as hairdressers are to be allowed, subject that they respect time slots assigned by homes and that they use masks/visors and any other protection as necessary within protocols to be respected by various providers of clinical or personal services.

Phase 3 –

Older Persons going out

It is being recommended that as from **1st July 2020** Older Persons requesting to go out of the Home are to be allowed. They are to be guided on the risks associated with the different activities by referring to the list as indicated by public health in the Guidance for vulnerable persons.