



21st December 2021

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Dear Service User,

The Christmas holiday is fast approaching and unfortunately the newest Omicron variant is making things trickier. We are now working with enhanced Covid -19 restrictions and need your help to stay safe.

Please contact us (021 4322651) **and** your PA if

- You or anyone in your house is at all unwell
- You are a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid 19

If you are unwell you must:

- Self - isolate
- Take PCR test
- Call GP if you need further advise

If you are a **CLOSE CONTACT** of a confirmed Covid 19 case depending on your vaccine and booster status you will be required to restrict your movement from 5 day up to 14 days or longer. You will be asked to either complete antigens test or a PCR test will be arranged by the HSE. The HSE will advise you.

Help us by keeping us informed. If you are unwell or a close contact, we will need to look at your individual service and we will need to adjust it whilst your personal restrictions are in place.

If your service is for personal / essential care we will do our best to maintain this, but we must do this as safely as possible. If you are a close contact or a suspected or confirmed as having Covid 19 and a PA is working with you, **they will be required to wear Enhanced PPE**. This is a mask, gown, visor or goggles and gloves. The PA will also be asked to take antigen tests regularly

- You will be asked to wear a surgical mask when your PA is with you
- We will ask you if we can open windows to increase ventilation
- Other people in your house (unless essential to care giving) will be asked to avoid contact with your PA
- Close contact time will be for essential care and must be kept to a minimum and the overall session time may be shorter
- As soon as we can recommence your usual service we will.
- These measures will stay in place for the duration of your personal restrictions

If a PA becomes unwell, they cannot work and are out for at least 10 days. If a PA is a close contact, they must restrict movements for a minimum of 5 days and longer if they have not had a booster vaccine. There are not different rules for community healthcare staff so we must do our best to stay safe.

Thank you so much for your understanding and supporting us over the last year. I hope you have a happy and safe Christmas.

Best Wishes

Pat Beirne
Manager Cork CIL