"Caring for people with learning difficulties"

LIVING WITH COVID19 & INFLUENZA, POLICY

Boulevard Care Ltd continue to strive to support all of our clients, staff and visitors to our homes to reduce the risk of clients, staff and visitors contracting Covid 19/Influenza and cross contaminating, putting others at risk.

Boulevard Cares Ltd priority is always the safety and wellbeing of clients and staff.

Vaccinations are no longer mandatory, but we do encourage all staff and clients to have their annual flu injection and Covid vaccinations, to reduce the risk of infection to others.

We feel that staff have a responsibility to reduce the risk of infection to others and will continue to encourage staff to have their free Flu jab each year and Covid boosters, as Health and Social care workers.

If clients are able to make their own decision on whether to have the Flu and Covid vaccinations, we respect their decisions.

If clients that are unable to make a decision, a best interest decision will be made between, GP, staff at the home, families, Social Workers.

We have now got to learn to live with Covid 19 and Influenza, and will implement, strong guidance to continue to protect our clients and staff.

This Coronavirus/Influenza, policy is susceptible to changes with the introduction of additional government guidelines, from Public Health England and our, local authority Health Protection team.

it is important that we all respond responsibly and transparently to these health precautions, we assure you we will always treat your health and personal data with high confidentiality and sensitivity as per GDPR.

This Coronavirus/Influenza, policy applies to all our employees who physically work in our homes, we strongly recommend that everyone read through this action plan to ensure we collectively and uniformly respond to this challenge. Clients will be given information in an accessible format to enable them to understand what is happening and why.

Boulevard Care Ltd outline the required actions Employees should take to protect themselves and their co-workers from potential Covid-19/Influenza infection.

- If you are feeling ill or have Covid-19/Influenza, symptoms you must inform the Senior on duty and take a Lateral Flow Covid 19 test, it is not mandatory to self-isolate but if staff are displaying ill health GOV.uk suggest staff, stay at home to safeguard the vulnerable clients within Boulevard Care Ltd.
- If you have tested negative for Covid-19 and have no ill health, you are able to attend work, if this is the case, staff must safeguard the clients by using the appropriate PPE and using anti-bacterial hand wash and sanitising hand gel. Staff must complete regular, safe handwashing.
- During periods of increased respiratory infections circulating in the local community, local risk assessments should be undertaken to determine the risk to clients, staff and visitors. Implementation of appropriate IPC control measures within each location will be supported.
- The wearing of face coverings for staff, clients and visitors is encouraged but not mandatory. This can reduce the impact of heightened community risk of transmission of covid 19 and other respiratory infections.

General Hygiene Rules

- Wash your hands after using the toilet, before eating, and if you cough/sneeze into your hands follow the 20second hand washing rule. You will find hand sanitizers all around the home.
- Cough/sneeze into your sleeve, preferably into your elbow. If you use tissue, discard it properly and clean and sanitize your hands immediately.
- Open windows regularly to ensure open ventilation.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands to prevent from getting infected.
- If you find yourself coughing /sneezing on a regular basis avoid close contact with clients and your co-workers and take extra precautionary measures.

All locations within Boulevard Care Ltd, have stringent cleaning schedules that are completed daily. irrespective of Covid 19/Influenza, if an outbreak happened the homes would increase their cleaning schedules to meet the standards expected, Health Protection Team and the Government guidelines, Good Infection Control measures should always be followed using personal protective equipment, intense cleaning in and around the home with extra measures where required. Staff have been trained in Donning and Doffing and posters on PPE are placed on the staff notice board along with all relevant Covid-19 information. PPE stocks are maintained and is readily available for staff.

All door handles should be wiped and surfaces that are in constant use on a regular basis to avoid contamination, all work surfaces in the office should be wiped on every handover.

Visitor's

Currently there is no restrictions to visitors to the homes, if the home has any concerns or outbreaks of covid-19 they will follow the current public health advice that visiting arrangements should be subject to regular review to protect both clients and staff from the risk of visitors bringing Covid-19 virus into the home. The Manager will carry out appropriate risk assessments and any changes in arrangements will be reflected in the homes visiting policy. The home acknowledges the importance of visits from families and loved ones.

The home will be informed by local public health and health protection team advice or evidence of community hotspots the home will rapidly review its policy and reimpose visiting restriction to protect its clients and staff, While standard face to face visiting is disrupted, the home will do all it can to support alternatives to enable clients to keep in touch with family, this will include staff giving clients support in using digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets and computer's to make video calls.