

**CONSULTUS BULLETIN Ref. COVID-19 : 17th March 2020**

In view of the developing crisis facing the UK, we are introducing additional special measures to ensure our clients, carers, nurses and internal staff are as protected as possible for the duration.

In line with the British Government's latest social distancing guidelines issued yesterday and given the virus plainly spreads through multiple person to person contacts, we are now requesting that all our carers and nurses extend their client bookings for as long as possible in order to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, whilst acknowledging there will need to be breaks for carers in high dependency placements.

This will minimise journeys arising from changeovers during the upcoming anticipated peak phase of the epidemic in the UK.

Consultus has also made the decision not to accept any new clients at this stage. This could change and will be monitored on a daily basis. Our priority is to care for and nurse our existing clients.

In addition, we are closing our Consultus Training Centre from the end of this week until further notice to help reduce the risk of cross infections. We are making available E-Learning modules which new carers will need to pass. Consultus Carers without accommodation between bookings will be supported.

We ask our clients and their family representatives to assist our carers and nurses with their infection prevention and control. In this regard, we will increase the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) incl. gloves, hand sanitizers, antibacterial wipes, masks, and aprons as supplies nationally become more available.

We also ask our clients and their family representatives to respect the guidance from our carers with respect to visitors where physical contact should obviously be avoided, albeit regrettably until this crisis is over.

All carers due to start a booking will need to certify in writing to [office@consultuscare.com](mailto:office@consultuscare.com) that they are free of COVID-19 symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and / or if they have been in contact and exposed to potential risk from anyone else presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

If a carer or client presents any COVID-19 symptoms they will need to self-isolate within the home for 14 days and notify us immediately. Please follow the BMJ visual summary in this regard attached. We will not be able to replace carers until symptoms are fully cleared in accordance with NHS 111 advice. We also ask that clients or their representatives confirm they are willing to accept specific carers in to their homes based on the carer profile provided in advance.

This is naturally a very uncomfortable crisis for everyone and we are doing everything we can to continue good caring and nursing services for our clients as well as protecting all parties including our own staff from infection.

We believe the country will get through this in the coming months: as of this week a COVID-19 vaccine is already being tested on a patient in the USA.

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