

Winter 2022

Due to the number of calls we have received re Christmas and Covid guidance we are sending this information sheet.

While we are enjoying the lifting of many restrictions, we must remember that COVID 19 has not disappeared. As we are coming into the Winter months we must be cognisant of the fact that COVID 19 and other respiratory illness such as FLU are around and numbers are on the rise for both.

St Michaels House following current guidance requests the following:

- If presenting with respiratory illness or symptoms associated with COVID 19 such as
 - Lethargy
 - Nausea
 - Lack of appetitePlease test for Covid 19. If the antigen test is negative the service user should isolate for 48 hours to see if symptoms resolve. If symptoms have not resolved then please seek GP advice. **Please do not attend day service if unwell.**

- Asymptomatic close contacts do not have to restrict movement and may go about their daily routines as normal, however please be vigilant as symptoms can be very mild. If you have a positive COVID 19 case in your household, please inform staff so that service users can be monitored closely. Please also ensure that you inform Infection Prevention & Control

- There is no restrictions to visiting our services at the moment, however, we would ask you to observe best practice if having visitors to the unit.
 - Ask that those with symptoms of COVID 19 or FLU do not attend
 - Offer hand sanitiser on entry
 - Ventilate the area well
 - Please remember that as we come under healthcare guidance, all staff and visitors should wear masks when in our units.
 - **Please note that if there are cases of COVID 19 in a unit, visits may have to curtailed somewhat**

- Please do not forget to send details of Service users Covid 19 booster vaccines and Flu vaccines to Infection Prevention & Control for Surveillance purposes, remembering that these figures will also be requested by the HSE

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone in St Michaels House safe this Winter.