

## **Pandemic Flu. Information for Staff.**

If you have received this information sheet and asked to read it then the Management of your Home has determined that a Global Pandemic of the Influenza Virus could be imminent and may (very likely) reach our locality.

**You will be having an emergency staff meeting THIS WEEK.**

We have been planning for the onset of this Pandemic for a long time, as have **MANY** International, National and local Government departments. There are extensive, detailed flu plans in place which will unfold as the pandemic escalates.

Your Home Manager has received the specific Action Plan designed for your home.

This plan will be made available to you at the staff meeting this week.

### **Details in Plan cover –**

- The different phases of the pandemic and action points in each phase.
  - Resource Management – medical supplies, food, medications, cleaning etc.
  - Staffing
  - Core functions
  - Communication
  - Visitors
  - Cleaning/ Infection control
  - Contact details
  - Anti virals

A Pandemic is an Epidemic that reaches “all people”.

This will arise when it is a new or mutated strain of influenza which the general population have no immunity against.

Previous Flu Pandemics occurred in 1918/19, 1957 and 1968. And millions were affected.

It is estimated that up to 50% of the UK population could be affected and likely to be absent from work for up to 3 weeks.

It is impossible to accurately forecast the exact characteristics, spread and impact of a new Influenza virus strain. It is estimated that it would take as little as 2 -4 days to spread from a few to around 1000 cases and could reach the UK in 2 to 4 weeks

Once the pandemic has reached our shores it is expected to last about 16 weeks with the peak around weeks 5 and 6. This will be the most crucial time for managing the Home.

Over the course of the infection some staff members will get ill, whilst some will have to take time off to care for loved ones who get ill. This means that the staff members who are left could be required to work extra shifts or longer hours than usual.

We realise this is a large commitment to ask, however the health and welfare of our residents will require a certain number of staff to be duty at all times.

We will do our very best to manage this Pandemic (if it arrives) with professionalism and sensitivity and will appreciate your help and co-operation at all stages.