6th March 2020

Dear Resident and Family,

As you may be aware Nursing Homes Ireland has announced visitor restrictions across all care homes in the country. I have included their communication with this email. The management team in the Fern Dean have moved to act on this advice from today. Full visitor restrictions have been put in place. No non-essential visiting, children or groups will be permitted to enter the Fern Dean.

We appreciate the distress that this causes to you and your family however it is crucial that we take all precautions so that your family member remains well. These restrictions are imposed on all non-essential visitors, staff and third-party vendors therefore, the social program will be delivered in-house. Many activities and services will be curtailed, such as hairdressing and beauty services. We do appreciate the impact of this on residents and the potential for them to feel isolated. Over the next couple of days, we will be identifying a number of ways which we can ensure will maintain regular communication with you and your family member.

The management of the Fern Dean will continue to monitor the situation and be in contact with the HSE regarding updates. The restrictions will be reviewed on a weekly basis. We will provide you with regular updates on the circumstances within the home.

Finally, I would ask that you share this information with your family and friends to assist us as we seek to provide your family member with the best care and in keeping them well.

Yours sincerely,

Colm Campbell
Director of Operations
Visitor Restrictions announced by Nursing Homes Ireland

6th March 2020: For the protection of nursing home residents, Nursing Homes Ireland has confirmed that visiting restrictions are now in place in nursing homes nationwide. No non-essential visiting, children or groups will be allowed.

All visitors are asked to contact prior to attending. Visitors should only seek to attend in urgent circumstances and the management reserve the right to impose full restrictions where necessary.

We urge prospective visitors to nursing homes to be cognisant and understanding of the measure that is required in the interest of resident and staff safety. Older people and people in nursing homes with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly vulnerable if they contact the virus. The virus presents an unprecedented situation for our nursing homes and the care provided within them. Nursing homes are imposing the visitor restrictions in the best interests of residents and staff. We thank people for their understanding and patience during this period of unprecedented challenges presented by Covid19.

Nursing Homes Ireland is monitoring the evolving situation on an ongoing basis and is in continuous contact with the Department of Health, National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE T), HSE and all relevant health authorities.