Dear Families and Carers,

There is good news about vaccines, rapid testing and visits to care homes.

We want to keep people in care homes safe and to safely allow some home visits.

To keep people in care homes as safe as possible home visits are only for:
- people of working age
- older people who are very ill

This is because Coronavirus is much worse for older people.

Sometimes older people really need to see their family even if there is a risk of Coronavirus.

To make the home visit safe:

For 2 weeks before the visit you should stay away from other people as much as possible.
Only mix with your family bubble and your support bubble for 2 weeks before the visit

Your whole family bubble may need to take a test before the visit

The care home might have a test you can do that gives results quickly

When someone from a care home is visiting you in your home you must only mix with your family bubble and your support bubble

Do not mix with anyone else

If a care home has a Coronavirus outbreak

For the next 28 days visitors should not go in and people living in the care home should not go out

Someone from a care home visiting you may have to self-isolate in your home

If they or anyone in your household get symptoms or test positive for Coronavirus
Someone from a care home who visits you will need to self-isolate when they go back to the care home

Think about how they might feel

Home visits are important but there are risks to think about

Care homes are not all ready to support visits outside the care home

Care homes do not all have quick tests yet

If you are unhappy talk to the care home first

You can also talk to your social care team

We would like to wish you the very best for the Christmas season

Your sincerely

Jim McManus
Director of Public Health

Yours sincerely

Chris Badger
Interim Director of Adult Care Services