

# Keeping safe in residential care settings during the Pandemic 2020

Author. Elliot, G. DementiAbility Enterprises Inc.  
Canada. [www.dementiability.com](http://www.dementiability.com)

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Phair L and Watt J. Milford Care Derbyshire UK.  
[www.dementiathemontessoriway.co.uk](http://www.dementiathemontessoriway.co.uk).

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# Important Message

A serious virus is spreading in our community and around the world. It is called COVID-19. The symptoms include a cough, fever and difficulty breathing.

We are doing all we can to prevent the spread of this virus. This includes:

- No family visits
- Meals will be provided in your room if you are unwell
- Staff will wear protective clothing to protect you and them
- All residents and staff must wash or sanitize hands very regularly



## **How does the virus spread?**

The World Health Organization says that COVID-19:

“can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales.”

“These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.”



## **Facts About COVID-19**

COVID-19 is a virus that has been spreading around the globe. This virus is called the Corona Virus or COVID-19. The virus has spread to many people, in all parts of the world, and is therefore referred to as a pandemic.

In today's world, many people travel, making it easier for a virus to spread to communities large and small. Since this virus is now spreading, and affecting more and more people, governments around the world have been taking advice from world health leaders and establishing action plans to help stop the virus from spreading.





Here in the UK, Prime Minister, Boris Johnson has been providing an update on television every day at about 5pm. Prime Minister Johnson also provides details about what the Government is doing to help stop the spread of the virus and what our government plans to do to help the people of the UK.



## **What we all need to do.**

The most important message from our Prime Minister is that everyone must stay at home, unless, of course they are required to work. The only people who are allowed to work are key workers. Everyone else is asked to stay at home. This means that all people – all families – have been told to stay at home until health experts say it is safe to be with others.

There are many new rules in place across the whole of the UK. These rules will continue to be in place until the health experts advise us it is okay to once again gather back together.



Most shops have closed, both in the UK and in other countries. Only essential shops are open. Grocery shops and pharmacies are open, because we all need food and many need medications.

Everyone is having to adopt new daily routines. Schools have been closed, libraries are closed, and no team sports are being played. If you have tried to watch your favourite sport on television, you will know that there are no current games on TV.



These new rules have been put in place to keep people from coming into contact with each other. Staying away from people is called social distancing. Health experts recommend that people stay at least 2 metres (just over 6 feet) away from each other, to ensure they do not share their germs.

The biggest challenge is that people may not know they have the virus, because it can take up to 14 days before they have the symptoms. So, everyone is being asked to stay at a distance, to make sure we keep everyone as safe as possible.





Families and friends are not allowed to visit one another, and they must use their phone or new technology that is available today, such as a computer, mobile phone or tablet, such as an iPad. This new technology will allow people to see each other on the screen as they talk to each other.

Another way to stay in touch is to send a letter or ask someone to write a letter to you. While talking on the phone or receiving a letter isn't same as being together, it is what everyone – young and old – must do right now.



Health and Social care workers are the among the greatest heroes during these difficult days. They are doing their best to care for everyone who needs care and support. We also need to recognize that everyone who is working in the hospital or care home and helping to keep things running, also need to be recognized and thanked. For example, the cleaning staff, catering staff and maintenance staff are all playing their part. As a society we need to say a great big – sincere – thank you to all these brave – and exhausted - people.

We also need to thank those who continue to make sure we have food and medications in our community.



If a person is admitted to hospital, because of COVID-19, staff will wear protective clothing to ensure the virus does not pass from one person to another. Everyone must be very careful.

You may find that where you are living, people who help you also wear protective clothing. This special protection is used to keep everyone – including you – as safe as possible.

We all need to do our part to wash away and kill the germs that could be carried on our hands. During this time of heightened precaution, it is important for **EVERYONE** to wash their hands regularly with soap or use hand sanitizer often – and that includes you.



Infection control experts also say that social gestures such as shaking hands and hugging must stop during this time. Since we are firmly being told to avoid shaking hands, we need to find other ways to let people know that we care. So, smile brightly or wave from afar and let everyone know you are happy to see them.

No one knows how long these new rules will be in place. Let's all work together to keep our distance and do our part to stop the virus from spreading.

**Stay at home**

**Stay Safe**

**Keep well**