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**COVID 19 – Impact and Burden in Care Homes**

**Interview Topic Guide**

Introduction

Thank you very much for taking the time to speak to me today.

* Check that an information sheet has been received and they know the purpose of the interview
* Recap that the aim of the interview is to explore the impact and challenges posed by the Covid19 outbreak on care home staff and residents.
* There are no right or wrong answers to any of the questions
* The interview will last up to 1 hour, depending on how much you have to say
* You are free to skip over any questions you do not wish to answer or ask to stop the interview at any time if you wish
* As a reminder, I will be audio recording the interviews so that I can accurately capture all of the key points you share with me
* Any names mentioned will be removed on the transcript. It will be anonymous
* Do you have any questions before we start?
* Are you happy for me to start recording?

**Section 1: Participant role and characteristics**

*I would just like to start by asking you some general questions about yourself and your role in the care home*

1. **What is your current role?**
2. **How long have you been working in this role and in this care home?**
3. **Are you employed by the care home or bank staff?**
4. **Do you work in any other care homes at the moment?**

Prompts: If yes, how often?

1. **Do you have any other jobs at present outside of care homes?**
2. **How much of your role involve caring for residents with Covid19?**

Prompt: To what extent do you feel you had a choice about whether or not to care for residents with Covid19?

**Section 2: Impact and management of Covid-19 in care homes**

1. **In general, how is the care home coping at the moment?**
2. **In your opinion, how much of an issue has Covid19 been in this care home?**

Prompts: Have you had many cases among residents? Staff?

How quickly did Covid19 spread?

1. **Can you talk me through how Covid19 has impacted on the care home and ways of working?**

Prompts: What has changed? What are you doing now that you did not do before?

Prompts: Has your role changed at all as a result of Covid19? How so? Was this challenging?

1. **In your opinion, what have been the main challenges your care home has faced as a result of Covid19?**

1. **To what extent do you feel care homes received equal support and recognition during the Covid19 outbreak as other care settings?**

*I would like to now ask a couple of questions to understand how your care home manages residents with Covid19…*

1. **What makes you suspect a resident might have Covid19?**

Prompts: How easy is it to distinguish Covid19 from other illnesses or infections residents might have?

1. **When you suspect a resident has Covid19 what do you typically do?**
2. (FSHC participants only) **Have you been able to access testing for residents and staff?**

Prompts: if not, why not?

1. **If one of your residents has a positive swab test for COVID-19, what do you do?**

Prompts Do you ever move the resident or try and keep them separate from other residents? How easy or difficult is that to do? What makes it challenging?

If not, why not?

How do you feel about caring for a resident who has tested positive?

How do residents respond when they find out they have tested positive?

1. **If one of your residents has a positive antibody test, what do you do?**

Can you tell me what a positive antibody test means in your own words?

How do residents respond when they find out they have a positive antibody test?

1. **When a resident comes back from hospital with a diagnosis of Covid19, what do you do? Do you isolate the resident at all?**
   1. Are residents being discharged from hospital tested for COVID-19 before they come back to the care home?
2. **What impact has Covid-19 had on end of life and advanced care planning?**
3. **Did you receive any guidelines and/or training?**

Prompts: If yes, where from? What did it cover? Do you feel it was enough/adequate, and what additional guidance or training would you have liked or feel you need?

1. **To what extent did you have the necessary resources to manage Covid19? What else was needed?**

**Section 3: Personal protective behaviours**

1. **To what extent do you feel the activities you do as part of your job put you at risk of Covid19?**

Prompts: Can you give me examples? Why do you feel these activities increase your risk?

1. **Have you taken any measures or actions to try and reduce your risk of Covid19?**
2. **Specifically, how often are you and your colleagues using PPE at work?**

Prompts: If so, can you talk me through what types of PPE you tend to use, when and where?

Have you encountered any challenges using PPE?

Is PPE readily available?

How confident do you feel about using PPE?

Do you feel the PPE available is effective in protecting you from Covid19?

**Have staff in this care home been managing to maintain social distancing amongst themselves, when in communal staff areas, not caring for residents? (e.g. meeting or break rooms, kitchens, toilets, corridors etc)**

Prompts: Where do you find it most difficult to keep a 2m/6ft distance from colleagues?

What factors make it more challenging to maintain physical distance from your colleagues?

How important do you think it is for staff to maintain social distancing? Do you see colleagues as a risk at all?

Do you ever use PPE in communal staff areas? If no, why not?

Does anything make it easier to maintain social distancing?

**Section 4: Impact on Non-COVID-19 care**

1. **What has been the impact on the staff and residents of restricting visits from relatives and friends? Have there been any particular challenges around this?**
2. **How has the outbreak impacted on non-Covid19 related care for residents?**

Prompts: What has changed? What have been the biggest challenges? Which types of care or conditions have been most affected and how?

Prompt: How often are residents being sent to hospital for non-Covid-19 related reasons? Is this more or less than before the outbreak?

**Has Covid19 had any impact on how you interact with other healthcare services and professionals?**

Prompts: Different services (e.g primary care, pharmacy, secondary care, palliative care)?

Are you able to access support when needed?

What have been the main challenges?

1. **Has the care home been able to access medicines for residents?**

Prompts: For Covid19 and non-Covid19 care? If not, what are the reasons?

1. **What is the morale and well-being of care home staff like at the moment?**

Prompts: negative emotions (i.e. anxiety, stress, burnout, sadness), and positive emotions (pride, determination, dedication)?

1. **Has team working and communication within this care home changed at all as a result of Covid19?**

Prompts: has it improved? Worsened? How so?

**Section 5: Personal COVID-19 experience and testing**

1. **If you don’t mind me asking, have you had any symptoms which you think could have been Covid19?** (You can skip this question if you would prefer not to answer)

If yes: Were you able to be tested?

Prompts: If not, reasons for why not?

**Has anyone else in your household had symptoms of Covid-19 or a confirmed infection?**

If so, what did you do? Did you receive guidance and support around what to do in this situation?

1. **Have you had a blood test to see if you have antibodies?**

*What was the result (if you don’t mind sharing)*

*How do you feel about the result?*

*Will you do anything differently on the basis of the result?*

**Part 6: Next steps**

1. **What are your views about care home testing for Covid19 going forward?**

Prompts: In your opinion, who should get tested and how often?

1. **Lastly, in your opinion, what could be done to better support care homes to respond to any future outbreaks of Covid-19?**

Prompts: what would be the main lessons learnt?