

Merrycare Limited

# Merrifield House Residential Care Home

## Inspection report

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Northampton  
Northamptonshire  
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Tel: 01604705654

Date of inspection visit:  
28 January 2022

Date of publication:  
15 February 2022

## Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

**Inspected but not rated**

# Summary of findings

## Overall summary

Merrifield House Residential Care Home is a residential care home providing personal care for up to 62 older people. The accommodation is set over two floors. There were 56 people living at the service at the time of the inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Staff had received training in relation to infection prevention and control. Staff were observed to be wearing the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and following hand hygiene guidance during the inspection.

People had been supported to access the vaccination and booster program and all staff were vaccinated as per the regulatory requirement.

People were supported to go out and return to the home safely.

The provider had a robust contingency plan to manage the impacts of COVID-19.

The provider had developed a system to support staff with affective zoning of areas during outbreaks of COVID-19.

The provider has installed a number of visitor pods to ensure visiting for people during an outbreak of COVID-19 could be well supported. Video calling, voice messaging and sharing of photographs was used to help people stay connected with their family and friends.

The provider had installed an air filtration system to ensure the building was well ventilated.

## The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

### **Is the service safe?**

Inspected but not rated.

**Inspected but not rated**

# Merrifield House Residential Care Home

## **Detailed findings**

### Background to this inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. This inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

As part of CQC's response to care homes with outbreaks of COVID-19, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice is safe and that services are compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has in place. We also asked the provider about any staffing pressures the service was experiencing and whether this was having an impact on the service.

This inspection took place on 28 January 2022 and was unannounced.

# Is the service safe?

## Our findings

### Staffing

- The provider told us they had measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 related staff pressures.

### How well are people protected by the prevention and control of infection?

- We were assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules.
- We were assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service.
- We were assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.

### Visiting in care homes

- People were supported to receive regular visitors in line with the government guidance.

From 11 November 2021 registered persons must make sure all care home workers and other professionals visiting the service are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have an exemption or there is an emergency.

- The service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.