



Facilitating Visits in our Care Homes - Named Visitor Guidance

At Brunelcare we understand how difficult this year has been for our residents, their families and friends, especially because of the restrictions placed on visiting in care homes. We also recognise that relatives and friends are our partners in the care of those living in our care homes.

We remain committed to enabling and supporting visiting that is meaningful, as safe as possible and we recognise that visiting is an essential, integral part of your loved ones care.

We will continue to update, inform and involve all relatives with regard to visiting in the care homes and will remain responsive to the dynamic challenges Covid 19 presents at the moment and is likely to continue to do so for some time to come.

In an update on 7th April 2021 the Department of Health and Social Care announced that as part of the roadmap out of lockdown care home residents will be allowed to receive two, regular indoor visitors from the 12th April 2021.

The persons nominated will remain unchanged while this visiting guidance is in place, and will be reviewed as and when new government understanding and guidance is issued.

Having reviewed visiting over the last 4 weeks we no longer require a PCR test or for visitors to undertake weekly PCRs as from 1st May 2021

- Prior to each visit you will be asked to complete a visitor checklist with a member of staff and undertake a Lateral Flow Device Test this test takes about half an hour and your visit will depend on receiving a negative result, we will ask you to wait in your car or another suitable area.
- On receipt of a negative result a member of staff will provide appropriate PPE, a mask which must be worn at all times, (covering your nose and mouth), in the home and an apron and gloves.
- The member of staff will then escort you to your relatives room, visitors will not be able to go into any communal spaces other than for accessing a relatives room, and we ask that you maintain physical distance from staff and other residents.
- Staff will not be present during your visit to afford you and your relative privacy.
- There is no time limit on your visit. We ask that you remain in your relatives room for the length of your visit, should you or your relative need any assistance please use the call bell in the room and a member of staff will attend. Please also



use the call bell when you are ready to leave and a member of staff will escort you from your relatives room.

- Hand holding is detailed in the Government guidance with appropriate PPE in use and named visitors will be asked to avoid any closer contact (exception only if delivering care)
- Whilst the government states that vaccination is not mandatory and will not be a condition of visiting, Brunelcare would highly recommend, in line with Government advice, that visitors take up their offer of vaccination - please note that currently vaccination does not reliably prevent transmission of Covid 19, but does reduce the possibility and severity of any associated illness.
- You are welcome to bring gifts, however please note that items that cannot be wiped down will need to be “quarantined” for 72hrs, please let the member of staff welcoming you to the home know if you have brought gifts for your loved one.
- In terms of visiting outside, the rules and guidance remain unchanged at this stage - so window and garden visits, weather permitting can continue to go ahead as before, again please book with the home.
- **With the exception of End of Life and Essential Carer visits all other visiting will be suspended for the duration of any Covid 19 outbreak in the care home in line with Public Health Guidance, (an outbreak is classed as 2 or more confirmed cases).**
- **The government also announced that children under the age of 16 will be able to visit, please contact the home manager to discuss this, as they will have to record this on individual resident visiting risk assessments**

We appreciate your cooperation in carefully opening up our care homes and in order to ensure the safety of everyone we ask that you follow this guidance and any requests from the team.