



Facilitating Outgoing Visits for Residents in our Care Homes

At Brunelcare we understand how difficult this year has been for our residents, their families and friends - especially because of the restrictions placed on residents leaving the care homes and the 14 day isolation requirement.

We also recognise that relatives and friends are our partners in the care of those living in our care homes and the opportunity for trips out are a vital way of supporting residents' wellbeing.

We remain committed to enabling and supporting visiting and trips out that are meaningful and as safe as possible.

The Department of Health and Social Care has now issued further guidance, [Visits out of care homes: supplementary guidance](#) to be used together with [Visits out of care homes](#) that states the following:

“From 4 May 2021, residents should be enabled to leave their care home to spend time outdoors, without subsequent isolation for 14 days, only in the following circumstances:

- residents may be accompanied by:
 - a member of care home staff
 - one or both of their nominated visitors
 - their essential care provider (where applicable)
- care homes should discuss arrangements with residents' nominated visitors, or essential care provider, in advance
- visits should take place **solely outdoors**, except for the use of toilet facilities
- there should be **no visits to indoor spaces** (public or private)
- visits should not involve the use of public transport”

As an already nominated visitor, you will firstly need to contact the home to discuss any outdoor trip. A risk assessment will then be carried out with you, and your loved one, by the home manager, to ensure you are aware of all the measures that must be in place.



Once this is agreed you will be asked to book the trip with the home. As with visiting we currently cannot support ad hoc trips.

On the day of your trip you will need to have a rapid LFD test, which must indicate a negative result. This will take about 30mins. Your loved one will also have an LFD test. Should you or your loved one test positive the trip will not be able to go ahead.

Should there be an outbreak in the home, as defined by public health, then all outward visits will have to be suspended.

You will also be asked to complete a checklist confirming you have not been in contact with anyone displaying symptoms, and that you agree to the guidance regarding outdoor trips, limited contact with others, physical distancing, hand hygiene and the need for PPE should you need to support your loved one directly whilst out. Masks are to be worn during the trip with the exception of eating/drinking.

It is important that you adhere to the guidance in order to keep your loved one and other residents in the care home as safe as possible. The resident can only have contact with their currently nominated visitors during their trip and, apart from using toilet facilities, the duration of the visit must be outdoors. If the visit does not follow the above guidance then we have to implement the need for your loved one to isolate for 14 days on their return to the home.

This guidance is due to be reviewed again by the UK government on 17th May 2021