



Summary of current Visiting Guidance for care Homes

At Brunelcare we understand how difficult it has been for our residents, their families and friends, the new limits on visitors also presents more difficulties.

We 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, especially at this time of year.

We remain committed to enabling and supporting visiting and trips out that are meaningful and as safe as possible. The following reflects the latest changes in government guidance regarding trips out.

In response to rising infection rates and a new variant of concern circulating in the community the Department of Health and Social Care have reviewed and updated care home visiting guidance.

The main change is the limiting of the number of visitors who can visit each person living in a care home. This is now a maximum of **3 named visitors** and **one Essential Carer**.

Named visitors - remain the same regular visitors, as a named visitor you need to complete a Lateral Flow Device, (LFD), test on the day of your visit and it must be negative. In the event of the home having an outbreak Named Visiting is suspended. Children of preschool age are not counted in these numbers, but children of school age are.

Essential Carers - each resident is able to have an Essential Carer who is able to visit at all times even in the event of an outbreak. An Essential Carer takes part in "whole home testing" which means they have at least 3 LFD tests per week,(including on the day of their visit) and a PCR test weekly. Tests must be negative for visits to take place.

End of Life/Compassionate Visits - these are supported, even during an outbreak.

We are required to undertake individual visiting risk assessments for residents and welcome family and friends to be part of this. For people living with a dementia there may be special considerations around visiting and these can be considered in the risk assessment.

Should you have any concerns regarding visiting please do contact the home manager to discuss.



All visits still must be booked with the home, this helps maintain safety for everyone. Managers are responsible for determining a safe number for their home, as well as the maximum number of visitors per resident at a time. (This will usually be 2 at a time given the size of the rooms). Face masks, provided by the home must be worn at all times when in the home.

Trips out of the Care Home

It is possible to take your loved one out on a trip, or overnight stay. This will need an individual risk assessment to be done with the home manager and there are some requirements when your loved one returns to the home.

If your loved one has had 2 doses of the vaccine, or are exempt from vaccination, they should not have to isolate for 14 days after most visits out of the care home, but will need to have a Lateral Flow Test every day for 10 days following the visit out.

If your loved one has not received at least 2 doses of the vaccine, and are not exempt from vaccination, should not go on visits out of the care home unless they isolate for 14 days after the visit out. This is a necessary precaution following clinical advice in light of a more transmissive variant of COVID-19.

Things that will be considered when undertaking the individual risk assessment with the home manager to help reduce the risk for your loved one and other residents:

- avoiding visiting people they do not usually spend time with regularly
- avoiding visits out that involve mixing with a large number of people indoors
- receiving a COVID-19 booster if possible before taking part in a visit out of the care home, unless exempt, and where they have had the opportunity to receive a booster
- asking those they are visiting to undertake regular lateral flow testing, and receive a negative lateral flow on the day of the visit
- asking those they are visiting to have had their COVID-19 vaccinations, including their booster if eligible

Should the home experience an outbreak all trips will be suspended.



The complete government Guidance can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/updated-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

Please do contact the home manager with any specific requests or questions and we will do our best to support your loved ones and your visiting needs in line with current guidance.