

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19



To protect yourself and others please **WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY**

Visitor Framework & Declaration (England) - 31st December 2021

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support of all our care homes and hard-working staff throughout this pandemic. It has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone and we recognise the impact that the pandemic has had on all those connected to our homes and within our local communities.

“Guidance on Care Homes Visiting” [Click Here](#) (Updated 30th December 2021) continues to include a number of measures to minimize the risk within indoor visits, this version supersedes previous versions.

The key areas made in light of the Omicron variant are:

- *Every care home resident can nominate up to 3 visitors who will be able to enter the care home for regular visits (this number does not include essential care givers or preschool age children)*
 - *Visitors should make arrangements with care homes in advance of the visit, so that care providers can manage the number of people attending at any one time to ensure safe visiting practices can be maintained taking into account the size and layout of the care home*
 - *The duration of visits should not be limited if safe visiting practices can be maintained*
 - *Visits should take place in a room most practical and comfortable for the resident (for example, residents with dementia may be more comfortable in their own room with familiar belongings)*
 - *Visitors should receive a negative lateral flow test result and report it on the day of their visit, either by conducting the test at home or when they arrive at the care home - essential care givers need to follow the additional testing arrangements outlined below*
 - *Every care home resident should be supported to have an identified essential care giver (in addition to their named visitors) who may visit the home to offer companionship or help with care needs - essential care givers should be able to visit inside the care home even during periods of outbreak affecting the care home*
 - *During an outbreak, care providers should also continue to offer visits in well-ventilated spaces with substantial screens, visiting pods or from behind windows - rooms should be left to ventilate with external doors and windows open between uses wherever possible, while aiming to maintain a comfortable temperature for residents and visitors*
 - *Subject to a risk assessment by the health protection team (HPT), outbreak controls may be in place for up to 28 days following the last positive case especially as we learn more about real-world vaccine effectiveness and disease severity of the Omicron variant*
 - *Physical contact should be enabled to help health and wellbeing, as long as IPC measures are in place, such as visiting in a ventilated space, using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the visit, and hand washing before and after holding hands - gloves are not needed for handholding and stringent adherence to hand washing is advised*
- ✓ We will provide you with one of our masks to wear through your visit.
 - ✓ Your care home will discuss with you the guidelines we need to follow for you to become one of the three named visitors.
 - ✓ The Essential Care Giver role is intended as a way of supporting the relatively small proportion of our residents who need some element of care and support that could only ever be provided by someone with a unique personal relationship with the resident, perhaps formed over many years. It is likely

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that this person will already be part of the ongoing care plan for the resident.

- ✓ In agreeing with you the designated Essential Care Giver role we will complete with you a risk assessment, and agree with you to be subject to the rigorous testing regime currently undertaken by our own staff. Please speak with your Home Manager for further details.

To keep your loved one and our care home safe, we ask that you please follow the below guidelines:

- Stay home if you are feeling unwell, including if you have a fever, a cough or a change in your taste and smell.
- Follow national guidance outside of your visit, including limiting your contact with other people and wearing a mask in public.
- Please observe social distancing with anyone outside of your household or bubble and wash your hands regularly.

Prior to the visit

- Visiting will be only be permissible if booked in advance; via email or a phone call to the service. Bookings will only be taken around the needs of the residents, and we ask to you to call to arrange in advance.
- We are afraid that we cannot provide refreshments during visiting we would respectfully ask that you refrain from bringing in any refreshments or gifts for your family member.
- To ensure your loved one is well enough for your visit and to avoid disappointment we would recommend that you ring the service just prior to leaving your home.
- We would ask you to complete your LFD test prior to leaving your home (and as explained below, please bring that result with you), or to arrive 45 minutes before your appointed time to allow for the LFD test process to be completed.
- **Once you have reported your test to NHS Test & Trace, you will receive confirmation of your result by text message (SMS) and an email to show proof of result.**
- **Visitors should show proof of a negative test result before every visit, such as:**
 - an email or text from NHS Test and Trace
 - a date-stamped photo of the test cartridge itself
 - If visitors are not able to produce a negative test, they may be asked to reschedule or be prepared to take the test onsite.
- **Visitors who are not legally required to self-isolate are advised against visiting the care home (for 10 days) if they have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, unless absolutely necessary, even if they have been fully vaccinated. Where visits do occur, visitors should have received a negative PCR test result prior to their visit, and a negative lateral flow test result earlier in the day of their visit.**
- **Anyone who is fully vaccinated and has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, does not need to self-isolate if they receive a negative PCR test result and take daily rapid lateral flow tests until 10 days after their last exposure to the positive case. Again, where visits do occur, visitors should have received a negative PCR test result prior to their visit, and a negative lateral flow test result earlier in the day of their visit.**

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Mental Capacity & Decision Making

All guidance requires that....“Providers must consider the rights of residents who may lack the relevant mental capacity needed to make particular decisions and, where appropriate, their advocates or those with power of attorney should be consulted. For example, some people with dementia and learning disabilities may lack the relevant capacity to decide whether or not to consent to a provider’s visiting policy. These residents will fall under the empowering framework of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and are protected by its safeguards.”

We are updating our risk assessments and we are recording and respecting the decision making made by our residents in relation to who should be the three named visitors and visiting itself. Where our resident lack the capacity to decide on their named visitors, we will communicate and liaise with families to reach an amicable decision. Shaw healthcare will facilitate a meeting with the resident, social worker and family to reach a best interest decision.

During your visit

Inside the care home, we ask that you continue to wear your face covering and any other PPE that you were asked to wear by a member of staff. Please continue to work within our visiting policy throughout the visit.

We cannot accept the following during your visit:

- Taking off any PPE according to guidance from the member of staff.
- Entering into any part of the home that is not designated for your visit.

Testing is one way of reducing the risk of visiting a care home, but it does not mean there is no longer any risk. Every visitor must have a negative test before each visit. We do seek your consent participate in testing, without your consent we cannot allow an indoor visit.

Please note - visiting may not take place to a service that has had a COVID-19 outbreak and Should this happen we will advise you. Visits can take place if the visit is deemed 'essential' / end of life.

Visiting will also not take place for a resident who is within their own period of 14-day isolation (for example a person who has recently been admitted from hospital).

We thank you for your continued understanding, respect of this and your cooperation.

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Visitor Declaration & Consent

Please read and consent to the following statements before your visit, at the visit we will ask you:-

To confirm that I fully consent to this Lateral Flow Test and in addition I:-

- Confirm I have not been unwell within the last 14 days - especially with a cough, loss of/change in smell or taste, high temperature, diarrhoea and/or vomiting or shortness of breath.
- Am not legally required to self-isolate having been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, I received a negative PCR test result prior to this visit, and a negative lateral flow test result earlier in the day of my visit.
- Having returned from an overseas visit recently and I am no longer in the quarantine period?
- Understand that I will be screened prior to visiting, this will include a temperature check and that my entry is at the discretion of the Service.
- And my temperature was recorded at hrs today and wasoC
- My LFD Test today was
- My last PCR test was on date

Full Name:

Name of Resident:

.....

Visiting:

.....

Signed:

.....

Time & Date:

.....

Your contact number:

.....

Please inform the service immediately if you have visited and have since developed symptoms or are informed that you have been in contact with someone who has been confirmed with Coronavirus since you last visited us.

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