



1st May 2022

Updated Guidance

Dear Friends and Relatives,

Following the updated guidance from the UK Government on Friday 1st April we have outlined the relevant changes for visiting our care home below.

Visits to the home and Testing arrangements

Visitors to our care home will no longer be required to complete a negative LFD test before their visit unless they are an essential care giver providing personal care to a resident.

To maintain the safety of our residents and staff we will expect our visitors to wear a face mask provided by the home available at the front door at the entrance of the reception. In circumstances where wearing a face mask causes distress to a resident, face masks may be removed when the visit is not in a communal area of the care home. Please make sure you maintain strict hand hygiene before, during, and following your visit.

Where possible we would encourage each resident to have one named visitor who can continue to visit during an outbreak or where the resident is isolating. Please inform the Home Manager who this visitor will be so arrangements can be made accordingly.

Compassionate visits will be supported for those residents who are entering the last stage of life. Compassionate visitors will be able to visit in any number and at any time of the day.

Residents will no longer take part in asymptomatic testing, this means they will no longer have to undergo a PCR test every 28 days. They will however be tested should they develop any symptoms.

How often can I visit?

All visits MUST be booked in advance via phone at 01784248610 or email info@churchviewcarehome.co.uk. There is no limit to the number of visitors a resident can have nor to the frequency of visiting. You are no longer required to book a slot.

Designated Visiting Areas

Visiting can take place in residents' own rooms however room 6 in the Oak unit will continue to be used as a designated visiting area if you wish to use it.

Please note that all visitors must inform the receptionist on duty of their arrival and 'sign-in' in the usual for donning of appropriate PPE. It is imperative that we are aware of who is on-site, whether in the Home or grounds, in the event of fire or other emergencies.

Guidance on out of Home visits was updated on 31st March. See section 2.4 of this guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-prevention-and-control-in-adult-social-care-covid-19-supplement>

Isolation Periods

Residents will only be expected to isolate if they have tested positive to COVID-19 or have recently returned from a hospital stay where there was an active outbreak.

The isolation period for a resident testing positive to COVID-19 will be 10 days, daily LFD testing will commence from day 5, if on days 5 and 6 they produce a negative LFD test their isolation can end, these tests will be administered at 24-hour intervals.

If the resident is unable to produce a negative LFD test, they will need to complete the full 10 days isolation.

When not to visit

Please note, that you should not visit the care home if you have any symptoms of a transmissible virus even if you have tested negative. We are still in the flu season and the NORO virus is also prevalent at this time of year causing diarrhoea and vomiting.

Please stay away from the home until you feel better, and your symptoms have ended. Ideally, you should wait until 5 days have elapsed since your last symptom.

If the home is in Outbreak

Depending on Public Health England's advice this guidance may be subject to change, Local Authorities may inform us that visits to care homes in their area may be limited or cease for a period. This may happen if there is a spike in infections in the area or if there is an increase of infections that show it is caused by a Variant of Concern.

If visiting restrictions are placed on a home the team in the home will contact you directly to inform you of this and to advise when the restrictions will be lifted. During this time Essential Care visits and Compassionate visits will continue. If there is a change in National Guidance from the UK Government, we will update you accordingly.

General

We are delighted that we can lift the restrictions that have been placed on our visitors over the last two years, but we need to remain vigilant. Vaccinations and boosters remain an effective way of battling this infection so we would strongly recommend our visitors take up the vaccinations where possible.

The care home residents remain vulnerable to this virus, so we strongly recommend our visitors comply with the infection control procedures we have in place to reduce the risks and keep our care home communities safe.

Disruption to Visits

Church View reserves the right to suspend visiting in the event of a local lockdown and/or where there is any change to the risk level – e.g. positive case in the Home, high number of people with symptoms awaiting test results, significant increase in positive cases locally or lockdown measures applied locally or nationally. These risks, once identified, will be acted on immediately so we apologise in advance for your visit being cancelled at short notice.

We would like to thank you for your support and patience during the Pandemic. As always, we continue to monitor the government websites if there is a further change to this guidance, we will update you as soon as possible.