

## **GM INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL IN CARE HOMES CELL**

### **Socially Distanced Visiting for Relatives / Friends of those in Long Term care facilities for elderly or people with special needs.**

The government has updated its guidance for people who are shielding, taking into account that COVID-19 disease levels have decreased over the last few weeks. People who are shielding and long-term care facilities remain vulnerable and strict precautions need to continue, including visits only taking place outdoors. Access to the building should not be facilitated other than for extraordinary circumstance like end of life.

Care providers should carefully discuss this new approach to visiting with the families, carers, doctors and health professionals caring for clients/residents to ensure guidance is strictly adhered to. Any assessment of a resident's needs and subsequent decisions made must consider individual circumstances and ethical implications, ensuring that the resident is treated with respect so that their human rights, personal choices, safety and dignity are upheld.

Settings with new or ongoing outbreaks / symptomatic residents should refrain from commencing socially distanced visits until everyone has completed their 14day isolation period and are symptom free. These settings will need to follow Public Health advice for the setting.

This advice and good practice can be supplemented with additional Public Health / Adult Social Care guidance locally and assistance should be sought from these teams within your locality.

#### **Elements of good practice could include:**

**NB:** these are only suggestions and each individual setting needs to determine the best way to implement this

1. ALL visits to be suspended or cease if residents are suspected of having or become confirmed cases
2. Visitors MUST not visit if they or any of their immediate family members have symptoms or have had a positive test within the preceding 14days
3. Visitors MUST not visit if they have been identified as a CONTACT of a positive case and must self-isolate for 14days
4. Socially distanced visits only to take place once an individual and setting risk assessment has taken place
5. Visits to take place in the open air only, not indoors. Consider placement of table, chairs etc.
6. Risk assessments to be undertaken for the individual resident and their ability to remain a minimum of 2m from their visitor
7. Risk assessment to be undertaken for each visitor (see attached example)
8. A member of staff to oversee the visits at all times
9. Visitors are not permitted to use the toilet facilities
10. Visitors will not be provided with any refreshments. Visitors encouraged to bring their own drinks and snacks. These are not to be shared with the resident.
11. Maximum of one visitor for those individuals who are being shielded

12. Maximum of two visitors from the same household only for those residents who are clinically vulnerable (children under the age of 12 should be discouraged from visiting due to the difficulties in maintaining social distancing)
13. Service animals are permitted. However pets are not permitted due to the difficulties in maintaining social distancing
14. Visitors must wear a cloth face covering at all times during the visit, further guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>
15. Visits are by appointment only, for a maximum of 30mins, once a week for each resident
16. If visitors need to access the building to gain entry to an open space:
  - Consider the use of PPE whilst navigating the building. Visitors will need to sanitise their hands before and after donning / doffing the PPE
  - Visitors to sanitise their hands on entering the building and/or when entering the open space
  - Visitors to sanitise their hands on leaving the building and/or when leaving the open space
17. Visitors could have temperature checks prior to entering the grounds (using an infrared thermometer only, preferably one that is assigned just for visitor checks)
18. Staff to continue to wear PPE as outlined in guidance
19. If visitors would like to bring toiletries for their relative, they must be placed into a plastic bag and left with the care staff, who must disinfect them prior to them entering the building
20. Visitors are discouraged from bringing any other gifts that cannot be disinfected prior to handling by the resident / staff
21. If window visiting takes place then the window must be disinfected on both sides between use
22. Consider drive by visiting. If McDonalds can do it, then so can a care home
23. Consider asking visitors to complete the risk assessment in advance (suggestion below)

**Government guidance remains in place:**

We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must:

- stay at home as much as possible
- work from home if you can
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands / sanitise regularly
- do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms

### Example Risk Assessment Form for Visitors

Please note: If there are two visitors for one resident, then a risk assessment would need to be completed prior to each visit for each individual visitor

Dear Sir / Madam

To prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our home and reduce the risk of exposure, it is mandatory that you complete a risk assessment prior to a visit being facilitated. We thank you for your support in our endeavour to maintain as much as possible, the safety and wellbeing of our Residents and Colleagues

All visits will take place outdoors, unless visits are required for visits of a sensitive nature.

Visitor Information		
Name:	Relationship to Resident:	
Contact Number:	Contact number (Mobile number/Home):	
Name of Resident being visited:		
Date and Time of Visit:		
DECLARATION BY VISITOR (ALL QUESTIONS ARE MANDATORY)		
Have you been in close proximity within the last 14 days with any person who has tested positive for COVID 19?	YES	NO
Have you been in close proximity to any person experiencing flu like symptoms within the last 14 days?	YES	NO
Have you tested Positive for COVID 19 within the last 14 days or have you experienced flu like symptoms within the last fourteen days?	YES	NO
Have you visited a foreign country within the last 14 days?	YES	NO
Are you experiencing any of the symptoms relating to COVID 19? a. new continuous cough and/or b. high temperature and/or c. loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
Are you experiencing any other symptoms which may or may not be related to COVID 19? For example, are you unwell in any way with diarrhoea, vomiting or other new symptoms in the last 48 hours.	YES	NO
<b>If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, visiting would not be appropriate as you are putting the person you are visiting and others at risk. If you have had a recent negative test for COVID-19, please bring the details with you.</b>		
Have been told to stay at home, self-isolate or shield for health reasons	YES	NO
<b>If YES, please discuss with the home manager prior to any visit</b>		
PROTOCOLS TO BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE VISIT		
<i>We ask that you sign to declare that you agree to abide by the following protocols throughout the duration of the visit</i>		
I agree to maintain social distancing rules of 2m and not to have any physical contact with the person that I am visiting	I agree to not directly or indirectly give to the person I am visiting any items I have brought in with me	
I agree to only visit for a thirty-minute period and I will not vacate the area where the visit is to take place without permission being gained from a staff member	I understand that the visit is at the full discretion of the Home Manager and any violation of the protocols will result in the visit being terminated	
I agree not to use any form of recording equipment or camera	Date:	
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Print Name:</b>	