

Adults' Health and Care

Update for care homes



7 August 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance on Care Home Visitor Policies

Dear Provider

Updated national [Guidance](#) has been published which covers visitors to care homes. The process for visitors to care homes is explained within the guidance document and can be referenced when considering visitors to care homes.

The guidance states that prior to visits being allowed in care homes in a Local Authority area, the Director of Public Health (DPH) will determine a level of visiting guidance **for that area**.

This does not mean that you need to consult with the DPH, the Public Health Team, Clinical Commissioning Group or Local Authority Team for your individual service or group when considering your local visiting arrangements. If any provider requires support to undertake a risk assessment this can be provided by contacting ProviderC19@hants.gov.uk

The Public Health Team will take a broader oversight role to continue to assess a number of factors when deciding whether it is suitable **locally**, to permit visits to care settings, including incidence of Covid-19 in Hampshire and the South East, incidents and outbreaks in the care setting and rates of infection within the Local Authority areas and specific trends.

Care homes must base their own visitor policies on their individual risk assessments, their testing programme, infection control measures and vulnerability of residents. The national guidance is detailed to help care homes develop and implement these policies.

Communication to staff, residents and their families of the care setting visitor policy is also covered.

Public Health England Health Protection Teams and Clinical Commissioning Group Infection Prevention and Control leads will issue specific instructions when there are suspected or confirmed cases in a care setting.

There are no current recommendations to restrict or prohibit visits in any area in care settings in Hampshire.

If any restrictions are introduced these will be directed by the Health Protection Board and/or declared by the DPH, should visits need to be restricted or prohibited in a care setting in an area. Care settings in a geographical area will be contacted proactively, should this be necessary.

More [detailed guidance for the Hampshire County Council area](#) has been published.

Providers can also review the data for the [Hampshire area](#).

