

**Policy for visiting residents inside the care home during COVID-19**

Please be aware that from 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 any professional visiting a resident inside the home will need to carry out an LFT test as well proving their vaccination status. All professionals will need to download the NHS Covid App on their phones and show proof of their vaccination status, this can be found by downloading the Travel section. Currently we are unable to accept the QR codes on the Domestic pass as this doesn't give evidence of the full vaccination status.

Example of what the record looks like below:



- Visits can be within the home to the allocated resident's room for a **maximum period of 45 minutes ONLY**. Residents who have a patio door please book in at Reception following the guidelines as set out below and enter/exit your loved one's room via their patio doors. For residents who are on the first floor please use the stairs near to reception and proceed immediately to your loved one's room. No visits are currently in place for communal areas.

- All visitors **MUST** wear a medical face covering, because all our residents are classed as being at higher risk of infection and COVID related complications, please help yourself to a mask in reception. We understand this can make communication with your resident difficult, especially when residents are hard of hearing, but this needs to be risk assessed against the possibility of infection. Raising your voice in these circumstances increases the respiratory droplets which carry the virus so wearing a mask is very important in these situations. If you are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, you must discuss this with the manager before visiting.
- All visitors **MUST** take their temperature and complete a Covid screening form, use the sink provided and thoroughly wash their hands before entering the building or passing anything through to the staff in the office. Alongside a medical face mask, you will be asked to wear PPE throughout your visit including an apron and gloves. This must be put on before your visit and disposed of in the yellow bin within the front entrance following your visit.
- Internal visits will be limited to **one** visit upstairs and **one** downstairs at each timeslot to start with, which will increase depending on local infection rates.
- Please open windows and leave the door to the room open wherever possible to ensure airflow and ventilation. We appreciate this may be challenging in the winter months – please speak to Leanne, Sue or a Team Leader if you have concerns about the temperature.
- No skin-to-skin contact or personal care can be given by family members. Please contact a member of staff if help is required.
- All visits must be pre-booked to ensure we are not overwhelmed by visitors arriving at the same time and to allow safe distancing when in the reception area/corridors etc. Times will be **11am, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm**. No visits over a mealtime (12.30 lunch and 5pm dinner).
- **Please be aware in GH only one visitor at the set times as above**
- Visitors can continue to take their resident into the gardens of Cote House if the resident is able to walk unaided or visitors can choose to sit in any of the outdoor areas that are available at the time of the visit. Please ensure correct social distancing remains in place. If you wish to take your resident out in a wheelchair, please show a valid LFD test result at reception beforehand.



- All visitors must continue to carry out a LFT test prior to entrance to the home and show the test results to reception. Alternatively carry out the LFT on the premises and wait 30 minutes prior to entering the home.
- Any gifts for residents need to be wipeable and handed to staff, **NOT** to residents, to ensure we can clean them before being given to the resident. Government guidance advises against gifts that cannot be wiped down such as bunches of flowers, as this increases the risk of infection.
- Limit the number of visitors at any one-time IE: a maximum of 2 adults & 2 children only, as this increases the possibility of infection and makes it harder to maintain safe social distance.
- If children visit with you, please ensure they are well behaved and keep to the designated areas, as our residents take exercise outside the home.
- Please adhere to the above points in order to ensure the safety of your relative, as well as all the residents and staff at Katherine and Griffiths House.
- Please be aware that should our local community infections rates rise or infection within the home (2 or more staff or residents testing positive for Covid) visiting would be restricted further or postponed until the care home has been assessed to be in recovery. This is defined as 28 days or more since the last suspected or confirmed case reported, which underlines the importance of following these guidelines.

#### **For outdoor visits**

- We still have the allocated spaces outside the home and request that you do always wear a mask. Please continue to book these in with staff before arriving as we cannot accommodate ad hoc visits. Room 10 can still be used for bookings as well.