



## COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) BCOP BULLETIN 23.11.2020

The BCOP Bulletin aims to ensure that families and other visitors remain informed of the latest guidance, and latest BCOP specifics in relation to the virus. Click on these headings to access the information relevant to you:

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### Visiting Pods available from 30th November

You are all undoubtedly aware of the considerable pressure that the Government has faced regarding the issue of visits to care homes, and I know that you have been wholeheartedly supportive of BCOP's efforts to secure these visits for our BCOP family, during what has been a protracted and painful period for everyone.

I am so pleased to say that BCOP has now constructed Visiting Pods in each of our care homes, which will be in use from 30th November. I am sure you can imagine the demand that there will be following such a long period apart and, therefore, due to the anticipated demand, visits will need to be limited to one person per visit, booked in advance and limited to 30 minutes in the first instance. I know this is difficult, and that all we all want to be able to do is give each other a hug again – but I do ask for your patience for just a little longer; in these bizarre times, a hug can be dangerous.

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DISCLAIMER: This information is compiled by BCOP and updated at 2pm on 23.11.2020. The information about BCOP policies and actions is correct at the time of publication.

While we make every effort to accurately communicate the latest government recommendations, due to the fast-moving nature of the current coronavirus situation, we advise relatives, external visitors and staff to check the official guidance from the UK government at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for further clarification/information.

## How to book a Pod Visit

Call or email the care home to book a 30 minute visiting slot. Visits can be booked between 10am-4pm, 7 days a week. Only one visitor per resident will be allowed, per week.

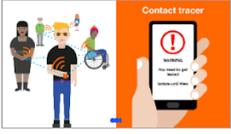
When you arrive, you will be given a code to collect the key from the key safe near the pod, and you must return the key to the key safe at the end of your visit.

The only fair way to allocate visiting slots is on a strictly first come, first served basis, so please be patient with staff if your preferred slot is not available. I should also add, that if you are able to use the Visiting Pod, this visit will replace the 'facetime' call for that day, as this is taking an unprecedented amount of staff care time.

Staff will sanitize the pods in between each visit.

Please read the '**Do's and Don'ts**' on the next page in advance of your visit.

# Pod Visiting Dos and Don'ts

Before your visit	During your visit	After your visit
 <p>Complete the track and trace form given to you by the nursing home staff</p>  <p>Don't bring unnecessary items into the pod.</p>	 <p>Wear a face mask.</p>  <p>Sanitize your hands before and after your visit. Sanitizer is available in the pod.</p>  <p>Try to avoid touching surfaces in the pod. Sanitize straight afterwards if you do.</p>	 <p>End your visit on time so that we can sanitize the pod ready for the next visitor.</p>  <p>Remember to take your belongings home.</p>  <p>Put the pod key back properly so the next visit can start on time.</p>

## Do not visit if...



 <p>you feel ill</p>	 <p>your temperature is above 37.5°C</p>	 <p>you have a new or persistent cough</p>
 <p>you have noticed a change or loss to your sense of taste or smell</p>	 <p>you are shielding</p>	<p>You need to self-isolate</p>  <p>you have been in contact with anyone suffering with Covid-19 in the last 14 days</p>

These posters will also be on display in the Visiting Pods.

## Essential Resident Visits

If the Pod visits prove to be effective, with close monitoring of the number of positive Covid 19 tests in the care homes, then we will also be able to introduce Essential Resident Visits. These visits are different to Pod visits; they are designed to address the needs of those residents who may not be able to get out of bed or sit in a chair for 30 minutes, or who may need specific care that can only be given by a loved one visiting in person. These are the visits we have been seeking permission for, from Birmingham's Director of Public Health.

Essential Resident Visits are specifically for those residents who have been clinically assessed and identified as having an unmet need that a loved one's visit would help to meet. The need for these visits will be clinically assessed by our Registered Nurses on a monthly basis and discussed with the home management and myself, before being arranged with a resident's relatives. Unlike Pod visits, Essential Resident Visits cannot be requested by relatives.

For more information about these visits, please read the Essential Resident Visits leaflet which has been sent to you along with this bulletin.

## See you soon

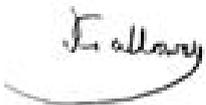
I have said before that while we do love and care for our residents, nothing is ever the same as family, lifelong partners, friends and loved ones. In order to be able to move forward with this style of visiting, we must do all we can to ensure everyone's safety. We have all learned over the past 8 months that the more people that enter a care home, the greater the risk of transmission. Above all else, we must all do all we can to keep each other safe.....that's what makes us a family!

I so look forward to seeing you in our Pods and, very cautiously and safely, welcoming those who can support us in meeting the needs of our most vulnerable residents, back into our homes.

We may yet see some family coming together in time for Christmas!

Kindest regards

Janet



**Head of Care & Quality, BCOP**