



## COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) BCOP BULLETIN 31st December 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:

[Resident-Room visits suspended due to Tier 4 Restrictions](#)

[Pod visits, external 'closed window' and video call visits can still occur](#)

[LFD Testing is improving our responsiveness to potential positive test results](#)

[Coronavirus Vaccine roll-out to care homes](#)

### [Resident-Room visits suspended due to Tier 4 Restrictions](#)

As of midnight last night, Birmingham is now a Tier 4 Area, meaning that all three of our nursing homes are under the very highest level of restrictions, in order to combat the virus as it mutates and becomes even more contagious.

Sadly, this means that the long-awaited resident-room visits must stop until Birmingham is moved back down to Tier 3 or below, in order to preserve everyone's safety.

### [Pod visits, external 'closed window' and video call visits can still occur](#)

Pod visits, external 'closed window' and video call visits can still occur. However, please do continue to be patient when arranging and having these visits facilitated, as members of staff may well be busy delivering personal care to someone's loved one, which must always come first.

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DISCLAIMER: This information is compiled by BCOP and updated at 2pm on 31.12.2020. 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.

If one of the nursing homes does experience an outbreak of the virus, then Pod visits at that home will also stop, as a precaution to ensure the safety of our visitors, since the multi-person use of the Pod does represent a risk, even with the stringent cleaning regime in place prior to and following each visit.

## LFD Testing is improving our responsiveness to potential positive test results

BCOP has remained relatively Covid-19 free since May, but with the new strain of the virus we are seeing an increase in the number of staff, rather than residents, who are testing positive. This is undoubtedly a direct result of having ready access to Lateral Flow (LFD) Testing facilities, and it enables us to respond immediately to any potential positive result immediately, rather than having to wait 3–6 days for a PCR test result.

We had all hoped and prayed for a better end to 2020 for all of us, especially the extended BCOP family. You have all patiently endured long periods of separation from your loved ones, and our hearts really do go out to you for the stoic manner in which you have endured this in order to keep everyone safe. We can only say thank you!

## Coronavirus Vaccine roll-out to care homes

Moving forward to 2021, we know that the Coronavirus Vaccine in Birmingham will be provided to care home residents towards the end of January; as Boris said in his speech yesterday “the light at the end of the tunnel is here, and the tunnel is getting shorter”. Thank goodness for that!

2020 has been one of the most challenging years that many of us have ever experienced, but we are still here – and still up for the challenge! As we move into 2021, we can all say goodbye to 2020 and look forward to being part of the national solution that will, I am sure, provide us with a Covid-19 free / immune society and get back to being able to see and hug each other!

Kindest regards

Janet  
Head of Care & Quality, BCOP