



## COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) BCOP BULLETIN 6th April 2021

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:

[Changes to indoor Visits allowed from 12th April](#)

[Procedure and Guidelines for Nominated Visitors x2](#)

[Procedure and guidance for Essential Family Visits](#)

### **Two Nominated Visitors to Care Homes**

The Government, and national media have already announced that from the 12th April, 2 nominated visitors may now visit a loved one in a care home!!! The procedure for visiting will be exactly the same for 2 people, as it will be for 1 - BUT (long awaited news!!!).....provided visitors are wearing appropriate PPE (Mask, Apron, Gloves), you can also hold hands (and about time too!!!). We are still waiting for the actual guidance on this, but more specifically relating to young children being able to join the 2 adults during the visit. As soon as we have this guidance, we will let families know.

We continue to provide our POD visits, and to facilitate End of Life visits, and these can also now be for 2 named people.

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DISCLAIMER: This information is compiled by BCOP and updated at 2pm on 22.02.2021. 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.

## Procedure and Guidelines for Nominated Visitors

- Only two people per resident can be designated the 'Nominated Visitor' and these must remain the same person from week to week.
- Nominated visitors can visit the care home for up to 1 hour twice a week. This will enable us to control footfall in the nursing homes and conduct Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing for all nominated visitors prior to any entry into the care home

### Before your visit:

- Make an appointment to visit with the care home
- Arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to your visiting time, to allow for the LFD testing to be conducted.

### When you arrive, you must:

- Take your temperature using the thermometer provided and record it on the sheet.
- Wear the face mask, apron and gloves provided - staff will show you how to put these on and take them off.
- Take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test
  - On your first visit, you will need to complete an LFD test consent form and you will be given a website link to register your own LFD test result.

**If your temperature is above 37.8°C or your LFD test is positive, you will not be allowed to enter the care home.**

### During the visit

- Staff will escort you to your relative's bedroom
- Close contact, such as hugs and kisses, should be avoided
- As long as you are wearing gloves, you may hold hands with your relative

While we understand that this will be extremely difficult for you to do, we know you are all keenly aware that the virus can be fatal to our vulnerable residents; **failure to follow the guidance may result in you being asked to leave.**

## Essential Family Visiting

For some of our residents, there is a clear need to maintain essential family contact, without which residents may experience deterioration of their physical and mental health and well-being. These visits were notified to you all last June (but unfortunately we then entered Tier 4 and were not permitted to introduce them!) Government guidance has now changed, and where it can be evidenced and identified that a resident has a clear need that can only be met by an Essential Family Visit these are now permitted, however, they remain under strict guidance and control.

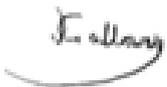
In this event, the staff will make contact with you, following a period of assessment using our Monitoring Tool, you will be required to undergo the same training as the staff in Infection Control, Handwashing and Respiratory Hygiene, Understand how to put on and take off PPE, Handwashing and maintain Social Distancing. You will also take part in the same covid 19 testing that the staff of the care home do (x1 PCR weekly, x2 LFD tests weekly), and sign a consent form to enable the care home to register and know your test results. The care home will also conduct a Key at Risk Group Risk Assessment on you to ensure all potential risks to yourselves, and the resident are minimised. An Essential Family Visit Care Plan will be discussed with you, which will clearly identify the elements of 'essential care' that you can provide, and you will be requested to sign this as an agreement. You must then abide by this agreement. These visits have no restrictions on time, but you must ensure that you remain within the resident's room, with the exception of escorting the resident to the outside gardens, and do not wander around the care home. You may also book meals, and enjoy eating with your loved one once again.

BCOP has produced an Essential Family Visit Guidance Booklet, and if you believe this is applicable to you, and the 'essential element of care can clearly be identified', then I would urge you to speak to the care home manager.

It has been a very, very, long road - and we are not out of the situation yet - but - at long, long last, common sense is beginning to over take the fear of Covid 19, and the missing ingredient, that makes up our BCOP family - is finally beginning to re-join us.....

WELCOME BACK - WE HAVE ALL MISSED YOU!

Kindest regards



Janet

**Head of Care Quality, BCOP**