

Visits out of care homes during COVID-19

Care home residents must follow the national restrictions at all times in the same way as other members of the public. Residents, their families and care homes should carefully consider whether making visits out from the home is the best thing to do, or whether a visit at the care home would provide meaningful contact in a safer way.

Things to consider:

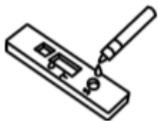
- Exposure to COVID-19: Spending time with others will increase risk of exposure for the resident and potentially to other vulnerable residents on their return.
- Working together: Care homes, local health partners, families and residents can work together to make home visits as safe as possible for everyone.



Visits home should only be considered for care home residents of working age.



Outward visits should only happen in agreement with the home and subject to individual and whole home risk assessments.



All members of the household hosting the visit must:

- have a negative test immediately before the visit
- take steps to minimise risks by limiting the number of people they meet for two weeks prior to the visit
- adhere at all times to the local rules set out in the lockdown restrictions

Current national restrictions mean a resident cannot meet another household indoors. It is advised to keep the number of people the resident has contact with to a minimum.



During the course of a visit the resident and those they are visiting are advised to maintain social distancing.



Visits should be supported by good infection control, which includes regular hand hygiene and considering wearing a face covering.



Visits home for older people in exceptional circumstances such as end of life, should always be supported.

When the resident returns to the care home following the visit, they must self-isolate for 14 days.

If there is a COVID-19 outbreak in the care home, visiting must stop until the outbreak is over. This is to protect vulnerable residents, staff and visitors.

The latest guidance can be found at suttoncarehub.org.uk