

Visiting care homes during COVID-19



Care homes, local health partners, families and residents can work together to make care home visits as safe as possible for everyone. **Minimise risks wherever possible to help family and friends spend time together.**

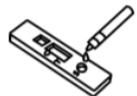


Visits to residents in care homes should be supported wherever they can happen safely.

Physical contact should be kept to a minimum. Hand holding is acceptable if hand washing protocols are in place.



The registered manager of each care home is responsible for setting the visiting policy and for considering the individual needs of each resident.



There is no limit on how many named visitors a resident can have. However, the registered manager may have set local limits to reduce risk. For close contact visits each visitor must::

- test negative prior to the visit (proof required)
- wear the right PPE
- follow all infection control measures

Close personal contact e.g. hugging presents higher risks but will be safer between people who are fully vaccinated without face to face contact and there is brief contact only.



A nominated **essential care giver** should be enabled to visit in most circumstances, unless they or the resident are COVID-positive. They will have the same testing and PPE arrangements as care home staff.



Care homes can continue to offer visits through outdoor visiting, rooms with substantial screens, visiting pods or from behind windows.



Visits in exceptional circumstances, such as end of life, **should always be supported.**



It is essential visiting is supported by good infection control – this may include social distancing, PPE and hand hygiene while in and around the care home – including during the visit itself.



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

The latest guidance can be found at <https://suttoncarehub.org.uk>