

Visits OUT of care homes during COVID-19



Spending time with others outside the care home will increase the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for the resident and potentially to other residents and staff on their return.

Care homes, local health partners, families and residents can work together to make home visits as safe as possible for everyone.

Minimise risks wherever possible to help family and friends spend time together.



Visits home should be planned and supported wherever possible. Care homes, residents, family and friends should take steps to manage and mitigate any risks.



Outward visits should be supported by individual risk assessments, where required. The registered manager of each care home is responsible for considering the individual needs of each resident.

There are certain types of activity where the risks are higher and the advice is that in these cases the resident should self-isolate for 14 days on their return to the care home. The activities are:

- overnight stays in hospitals that are unplanned
- visits assessed to be high risk following an individual risk assessment
- travel to an amber list country

For planned hospital overnight stays, residents do not need to isolate upon return, provided they meet the following criteria:

- be fully vaccinated
- receive a negative PCR following return to the care home
- complete daily LDF tests for 10 days following their return
- Avoid contact with other highly vulnerable residents in the care home

If there is an outbreak in the part of the hospital where the resident stayed, they should self-isolate for 14 days on return, regardless of whether the overnight visit was planned or unplanned.



Visits out that are not high risk should be supported by good infection control and not subject to self-isolation on return, subject to an individual risk assessment.



Visits out in exceptional circumstances, such as to visit a friend or relative at the end of their life **should always be supported.**



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

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