

# 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



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

- Be fully vaccinated and have had their booster jab when eligible
- Has no known contact with a COVID-positive person
- Receive a negative PCR following return to the care home
- 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 10 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, however those not fully vaccinated should not visit out unless they are able to self isolate for 14 days on their return. Fully vaccinated residents visiting out will be required to take a lateral flow test every second day for 10 days following the visit out



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, 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 [suttoncarehub.org.uk](https://suttoncarehub.org.uk)

