

Admission Guidance for Care Homes (Summary)¹

Care home managers have the absolute discretion to accept or decline a resident and whether to isolate that individual on admission.

For the purpose of this guidance, a care home resident is 'fully vaccinated' when they have received their primary doses of vaccine and any eligible booster dose.

It is possible to reduce the 10-day isolation period, subject to a risk assessment and negative rapid lateral flow test results. Please see [Isolation Guidance Summary](#) for full details.

Admission from a care facility

Newly admitted residents who are transferring from an interim care facility or transferring from another care home do not need to self-isolate upon arrival if they have received a negative test result (PCR) within 72 hours prior to admission. The individual should also be tested (PCR) on the day of admission.

An individual risk assessment should be completed in all circumstances. If the risk assessment shows that an incoming resident should self-isolate, this should be for 10 days. It is possible to reduce the 10-day isolation period (see above).

Admission of residents discharged from hospital

All individuals who test positive should be discharged to a designated setting in the first instance to see out their 10-day isolation period. The total 10-day isolation period can be shared across the hospital and a designated setting.

Individuals who receive a negative test result within 48 hours prior to discharge should be discharged to a care home where they will not be asked to self-isolate, unless they were discharged following an emergency admission, there is possible contact with a known outbreak in the part of the hospital where they were treated or if they are a contact of a suspected or confirmed positive case.

If there is an outbreak in the part of the hospital where the resident stayed, they should self-isolate for 10 days in their room regardless of whether their overnight hospital stay was planned (elective) or unplanned.

Discharge following elective admissions

Residents who receive a negative test result prior to discharge do not need to self-isolate following planned overnight hospital stays of any length, subject to an individual risk assessment.

¹ Guidance updated 24th February 2022

Discharge following an emergency admission

Residents discharged from hospital following an unplanned hospital stay should self-isolate for 10 days upon return to the care home. It is possible to reduce the 10-day isolation period (see above).

Admission of a resident who has tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days

Anyone who has had a COVID-19 positive PCR test within the past 90 days should not be tested again before being discharged from hospital or a care facility if they:

- have a normal immune response
- have completed their 10-day isolation period following the positive test result

They can be admitted into a care home if they:

- meet the clinical improvement criteria included in the stepdown guidance
- have no new symptoms
- have no new COVID-19 exposure

Admission from the community

Residents admitted to a care home from the community will not need to complete a 10-day self-isolation period if they have received a negative test result (PCR) within 72 hours prior to admission. The individual should also be tested (PCR) on the day of admission.

An individual risk assessment should be completed in all circumstances. If the risk assessment shows that an incoming resident should self-isolate, this should be for 10 days. It is possible to reduce the 10-day isolation period (see above).

If a resident is required to self-isolate upon admission from the community, this should take place within the care home. Self-isolation should not take place within the resident's own home or be shared between the resident's own home and care home.

Urgent admissions from the community

For urgent admissions (regardless of symptoms), the individual should be tested upon arrival and self-isolate for 10 days. The care home manager has the discretion to decide which form of testing (LFD or PCR) they want to use. If the test is negative, the care home manager should conduct a risk assessment to assess the need to continue self-isolation.

Admission of residents who cannot be tested

If residents cannot undergo testing, they should be assumed to be potentially infectious as their COVID-19 status is unknown, and they should self-isolate for 10 days as a precaution.