

Greensleeves Care Visitation Policy

Throughout the pandemic, Greensleeves Care, along with most other reputable care providers, has followed the regulations and guidance provided by the Government, Public Health England, the NHS and the CQC. At times this has been difficult for our residents and their families when we have been forced to restrict visitation, which is a process that goes against every instinct we possess. But it has been done with our resident's best interest at heart, following the most up-to-date scientific advice and has undoubtedly prevented tens of thousands of vulnerable people across the country from being exposed to Covid-19.

The extensive vaccination programme both within our care homes and across wider society and the well documented improvements to Covid-19 treatments has allowed the government to pursue a less restrictive regime. As such we now appear to be moving towards a more open society which is also starting to be reflected within care home and the type of visiting that is now permissible.

Following the Government's recent changes to guidance the following basic principles will now be incorporated within Greensleeves Care homes. Due to variances to individual buildings, it is difficult to produce a blanket policy that accurately covers all of our care homes so you are advised to address any specific questions to your local Care Home management team.

- Residents can now have 5 nominated visitors.
- No more than 2 named visitors are allowed at **any one time or over the course of any one day.**
- When children are visiting, they count towards the maximum number of total visitors for a given day.
- Any children visiting must be accompanied by an appropriate adult.
- For the avoidance of any doubt the maximum total visitors on a given day is 2. So, the only visitation permutation is as follows:
 - One adult and one child
 - Two adults
- The only exception to this is babies and preschool-aged children who are not counted towards the maximum of 2 allowed for a visit.
- Where it is reasonable and practicable any children visiting should wear the same PPE as adult visitors.
- It is not recommended that face coverings are worn by children under the age of three.
- Named visitors should be tested using LFDs and wear appropriate PPE. Visitors can either be tested using LFDs on-site or at home.
- LFD testing must be conducted **on the day of the visit, and evidence must be presented if self-testing at home.**
- If a visitor cannot produce appropriate evidence of a negative test, they may be asked to reschedule or take a test on site.
- If a result is positive, the visitor and their household must self-isolate and take a confirmatory PCR test.
- Hugging is discouraged for nominated visitors.
- Vaccination is not a condition of visiting but it should be strongly recommended to visitors.
- Care homes can continue to offer visits to other friends and family members who are not nominated visitors through arrangements such as outdoor visiting, rooms with substantial screens, visiting pods or from behind windows.