

## 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.

- There is no government-imposed limit on the number of visitors either at each visit or over any period of time. While some of our homes may still have some limits in place due to space restrictions, these should be minimal and will be based on a risk assessment.
- Visits no longer have to be in a dedicated space or with screens as long as the visitors have tested negative on an LFT device on the day of the visit. Visits can now take place in residents' bedrooms etc. Please note this will vary home to home and will be based on the homes local risk assessment.
- All visitors (other than children under the age of 12) will be required to wear PPE still and it is recommended that physical contact is limited to as little as possible.
- Most homes are still managing visits using a booking system.
- All visitors should be tested using LFDs and wear appropriate PPE. Visitors can either be tested using LFDs on-site or at home but must show evidence of a negative test before they will be allowed in to the 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.