



**1st July 2022**

## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATED VISITING POLICY & GUIDANCE**

Further to the Government lifting all remaining restrictions 'domestically' in England, we would like to advise you of our Policy for visiting our Care Homes in England. As stated by the Government the over-arching Policy will be set by each individual Care Home Provider, in accordance with Risk Assessments, Infection Control Policies & Procedures and Safe Management during the ongoing Pandemic.

Our Policy & Procedure now does not require a specific booking to visit an individual in their own personal space and not in communal areas. We do still encourage all visitors to have received all their vaccinations and we still require negative LFTs to be shown on visiting. If you are an Essential Care Giver, you will be required to maintain twice weekly LFTs, in accordance with our staff testing regime. The maintenance of LFT testing is in place to ensure your protection as well as that of our staff and residents, especially as the new variants are on the rise in most Local Authority areas in England and Wales.

To ensure we can facilitate as many visits as possible, throughout the days, for all residents in the home, we would request that visitors, who are frequent attendees, could complete their own LFT tests prior to visiting (on same day) – register the test themselves on the GOV site and show their registered negative test result to the staff on arrival.

In addition to the above criteria, visitors should not enter the Homes if they are feeling unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19 and are fully vaccinated and have received their booster. Transmissible viruses such as FLU, RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) and NOROVIRUS can be just as dangerous to the Care Home's residents as COVID-19. If you have any symptoms that would suggest other transmissible viruses and infections, such as coughs, high temperature, diarrhoea and/or vomiting, please avoid coming to the Care Home until at least 5 days after you are feeling better.

Any visitors who are not legally required to self-isolate, should not visit the Care Homes for 10 days, if they have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, even if they are fully vaccinated.

Visits out of the Home will be planned in consultation with our Homes Managers and the family directly, for each individual and the individual Care Home – isolation periods will no longer be required following an external visit.

Should there be an outbreak at any of our Care Homes, all visits will cease immediately, with the exception of Essential, and recovery testing will take place 14 days after the last positive result in an outbreak, except where the outbreak included evidence of VOCs (Variants of Concern).

We will endeavour to update you with any changes to restrictions, National and/or Local lockdowns from the Government as soon as we are informed.

Thank you again for your understanding, patience and cooperation. Take care and stay safe!

Kind regards

Rosie Howell, Managing Director RDCP Care.