

COCKLEBURY FARMHOUSE HOMES CORONAVIRUS VISITOR POLICY (updated 3rd December)

Cocklebury Farmhouse, 13 Greenway Park & 79 Malmesbury Road

Updates

"There are no nationally set restrictions on friends and family visiting their loved ones in care homes. We expect and encourage providers to facilitate visits wherever possible, and to do so in a risk-managed way.

Visiting is an integral part of care home life. It is vitally important for maintaining the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents. Visiting is also crucial for family and friends to maintain contact and life-long relationships with their loved ones, and to contribute to their support and care.

People living in care homes are typically more vulnerable to severe illness as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). While vaccination is proving very effective, we are still seeing some cases of severe illness, hospitalisation and death of care home residents who have been vaccinated.

Additional measures are therefore in place to facilitate visiting while keeping care home staff and residents safe. These include infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, individual risk assessments, testing arrangements and isolation on return from some high-risk activities out of the home."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

General Note:

While residents and staff have received the initial two vaccinations and the 'booster'. are tested twice weekly and observe rigorous Infection Prevention and Control procedures, there is still a chance that virus transmission may occur to as a result of the visit.

Likewise, despite having had the vaccine, the residents are still susceptible to infection although effects of the disease are likely to be less severe. It is in the interests of the residents that the visitors follow all procedures designed to keep everyone safe.

All visitors entering the home must understand that they have a responsibility to all residents and staff, not just the person they are visiting, to follow all government guidelines in the wider community to reduce the risk of transmitting the disease in the community but also within the care home.

Visiting Procedures:

- Visitors must contact the home to organise a convenient visiting time with the home. Visits will be planned at a time when there is less chance that other residents will come into contact with the visitor. Such times will likely be in the afternoon when the residents may be out on walks or at other convenient times. Visits will also only take place when there is the appropriate number of staff to facilitate the visit while also supervising the rest of the resident group and when necessary providing support to the resident for the visit to take place
- Each visit will be preceded by a rapid lateral flow test with negative results. The test can be performed at the home prior to the visit or the visitor can provide evidence of a test carried out earlier that day. Any professional visitor who has regular tests as part of their job can provide evidence of a negative test within the previous 72 hours
- Visitors will be asked to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water. Hand sanitiser is also available throughout the visit.
- Face masks will be provided and must be worn during the visit. Guidance on this will be provided by the home. Where there may be a possibility of close contact, gloves and aprons may also be required. This will be discussed with you prior to the visit.
- Physical contact to be kept to a minimum. Holding hands, if appropriate, is OK but hugging is to be avoided. Visitors should be aware that any physical contact increases the risk of transmission
- The visit will take place in a room where contact with other residents will be minimised. This can be the resident's own bedroom or a communal room that is not in use by other residents and ideally can be closed off for the duration of the visit. The home is well ventilated and windows should be open (while ensuring a comfortable temperature) in the room used for the visit for the duration.

Vaccination Requirements

From 11th November 2021 All staff working in the homes must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19, Likewise, all additional visiting healthcare or social care staff and trades people will need to show evidence of full vaccination unless they have an official medical exemption.

Visiting Family and friends of residents are not required to be vaccinated against Covid-19 but the managers would urge everyone eligible to take the vaccine to better protect themselves and the wider community.

There is a home risk assessment that details how visits can go ahead safely and each resident who will receive a visitor has their own individual risk assessment surrounding their particular personalised need specifically for that visit.

Visitor Testing

There are testing stations available in each of the homes. These are in exterior buildings/ sheds in the grounds of the home

Cocklebury Farmhouse: Bike shed

13 Greenway Park: Utility/Laundry building

79 Malmesbury Road: Summerhouse

Testing can be performed with the visitor just outside the building although there are screens and so the visitor is able to step inside. This is especially useful with wet weather.

Visitors will have the purpose of testing explained to them. This is to help keep residents and staff safe from possible transmission of disease by the visitor. However, the tests may not be 100% accurate and so there are additional procedures in place. These include: 1. Hand sanitation prior to the visit taking place, 2. the wearing of face masks constantly and other PPE as necessary and appropriate. 3. Social distancing with regard to other residents and staff.

Visitors will need to return a negative test before having access into the building and contact with the resident.

All tests should be registered with NHS test and trace using the Unique Organisation Number for the home.

In the event of a positive test result, the visitor must immediately leave the premises and self-isolate. The home will provide a PCR test for the visitor to take. If this confirmatory PCR test comes back as positive then they should continue their self-isolation and household contacts should follow current guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Visitors must give their consent to be tested.

ACTION REQUIRED ON THE DAY -

1. The person due to visit will be contacted and the following questions asked:
 - ***Have you been feeling unwell recently?***
 - ***Have you had recent onset of new continuous cough?***
 - ***Do you have a high temperature?*** Inform the visitor that a temperature check will be taken on arrival
 - ***Have you noticed a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell?***
 - ***Have you experienced any of the above symptoms in the last 10 days?***

- ***Have you had recent contact (in the last 14 days) with anyone with Covid-19 symptoms or someone with confirmed Covid-19 – if yes, should you be self-isolating as a family member or as a contact advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace?***
2. visitors will be asked to telephone when they are in the car parking area of the home. A member of staff will come out to greet them.
 3. The visitor will be screened on arrival using temperature checks, an observation for any present symptoms such as cough or fever will be carried out visually by the member of staff taking the temperature reading.
 4. The visitor will be asked to use alcohol hand rub to cleanse their hands. This is provided.
 5. The visitor will be asked to sign a visitor declaration and provide details for NHS Track & Trace.
 6. The visitor will have been asked to bring a face covering to wear and this must be put on. If the visitor doesn't have one, one will be provided. If the visitor uses a face mask from the home, it should be explained that it is single use and should be disposed of upon departing.
 7. A lateral flow device test will be conducted at a convenient place. The visitor can either wait in their vehicle (if they have brought one) or under the gazebo or another convenient point away from the home and residents. A garden visit can go ahead without Lateral Flow testing required.

A visit following a negative Lateral Flow Test result

1. If the test returns a positive result, the visit is cancelled. A negative result means the visit can go ahead
2. The visitor will be invited to wash their hands in the laundry room and don a surgical mask from the home's supply.
3. The visitor will be guided by staff, while practicing social distancing, to the agreed meeting point for that resident depending on their preferences and individual risk assessment.
4. The duration of the visit will be agreed to ensure that it doesn't negatively impact on the other residents.
5. Where appropriate and with consent from the resident, physical contact can be made although, ideally this should be kept to a minimum. Where contact takes place, gloves and apron should also be worn..

6. Following the visit, the visitor should dispose of any PPE in the 'yellow' infection control bin in the correct order (gloves, then apron) using alcohol cleanser between items and washing hands after. The visitor should keep their facemask on at this point.
7. Upon leaving the home from the front door, the visitor should dispose of their, mask in the bin provided and use alcohol hand rub before finally leaving

A Visit without a lateral Flow Test (Garden Visit)

1. Social distancing measures will have been explained to the visitor. There should be no physical contact and a distance of at least 2 metres should be observed. In this instance, face masks and other PPE such as gloves and apron are not required. However, where it is believed that the resident may not be able to adhere to social distancing guidelines through a lack of capacity, or if there is likely to be contact with bodily fluids e.g. coughing or spitting then Face masks and other PPE recommended by the home should be worn.
2. Staff will ensure that other residents aren't in the area where the visit will take place.
3. The Primary meeting area will be outside in an area of open space in the garden. Should the weather not be conducive to a meeting outside, the visit can be re-arranged
4. A garden table can be set up in the rear garden. This will have been sanitised prior to arrival. Sanitiser will be available for use for the visit
5. Gifts can be accepted, although they should be sanitised before being given to the resident. Where a gift can't easily be cleaned it should be quarantined for 72 hours. In the case of a birthday present, if the family member can confirm that the present was wrapped over 3 days ago, the outside wrapping can be disinfected allowing the present to be opened there and then. This is important for the family visitor to witness.

General and Individual Risk Assessments

There is a risk assessment for the home generally with regard to visits to ensure the safety of residents and staff in the planning of and during such visits . There is also a risk assessment individualised to each in particular resident with regard to the visits they will receive and a cost – benefit analysis of the visit. These risk assessments will constantly be reviewed with regard to any outbreak within the home, community transmission (local to the home and the visitor) and how the resident is reacting to the visits and further restrictions may be imposed or visits put on hold until such risks are lowered to an acceptable level. Wiltshire Council will also have a dynamic risk assessment and if they consider the risks of visits to

be too high they too may put further restrictions on the visits or stop such visits going ahead completely.

All visitors will receive a copy of the policies and must agree to the restrictions or visits will not be agreed. The priority, regarding the visits will be for the safety of the residents and staff within the home.

Outbreak Events

In the event of an outbreak in the care home, all indoor visits will be stopped. Any residents testing positive will be supported to self-isolate and cannot accept visitors.

Any residents who have been exposed to a possible or confirmed case of Covid-19 will be required to isolate pending a negative PCR test. Once they have tested negative they no longer need to self-isolate with the proviso that they take daily LFD tests for 10 days. In this case they can meet with visitors outside.

The home will follow all Outbreak guidance from the local Health Protection Team and this may have an impact on visiting.

Cocklebury Farmhouse Homes Ltd Managers
3rd December 2021