



Health and Community Services

## Visiting in Care Homes guidance during COVID 19

Updated Sept 2020

### DOCUMENT PROFILE

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<b>Title</b>	Visiting in Care Homes guidance during COVID-19
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<b>Linked policies</b>	COVID 19 strategy on gov.je
<b>Approval forum</b>	Infection Control meeting
<b>Review date</b>	As required
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Jersey is now at Level 1 of the Safe Exit Framework and this means that some of the restrictions imposed during 'lockdown' are no longer necessary. This guidance document has been updated to reflect the arrangements for visitors to care homes and to support care home residents to access the community safely.

Visits to care homes continue to be at the discretion of the Registered Provider/ Person in Charge in management of each care home and it is their responsibility to ensure that visiting arrangements do not compromise overall resident care or adherence to infection control procedures.

Recent increases in the number of positive cases and the likelihood of community transition will require this guidance to be monitored regularly for its proportionality and balance of harms.

## 2. GUIDANCE FOR VISITING IN CARE HOMES

Indoor visiting for residents in care homes where there is no COVID-19 confirmed/suspected cases is permissible in circumstances where the following criteria are followed:

- During this period, consideration should be given to each resident nominating the names of relatives and friends who would wish to visit them. Each resident has a maximum of **two** named visitors ONLY. Any additional visitors must be discussed and agreed with the manager on an individual basis. Only one of those visitors can be present at any one time and visits should be arranged in advance with the facility.

Visits should be scheduled to avoid heavy footfall in the care home at any time by giving dedicated times and staggering visits.

Visitors should be asked if they have had COVID-19 or had close contact with a person with COVID-19 / suspected COVID-19 symptoms within the last 14 days.

Visitors should be asked if they have travelled in the last 14 days. Guidance on travel is found on Gov.je website and updated regularly. Visitors who have travelled in the last 14 days must provide the care home with details of where they have been, observe appropriate isolation and provide evidence of negative screens if appropriate.

Visitors should not visit the home if they have been unwell in the past 7 days.

Visitors should be made aware of the visiting processes which are: pre-visit screening call, symptom checking, and determination of previous known exposure to COVID 19, area of the home they will be visiting, areas of the home that are not accessible at this time and use of correct hand-hygiene techniques.

In addition, they should be made aware that any visitors with fever or respiratory symptoms will not be admitted.

Visitors should declare that they have no symptoms and undergo a temperature check (if available) before being permitted to enter the care home.

With the potential for increased COVID-19 activity through winter months Care homes may be asked to ensure visitors present a recent negative COVID-19 test result, ahead of visiting residents. Separate detailed guidance on visitor testing will be developed and communicated ahead of any future requirement.

Visitors are required to sign in on entry to the facility. They should either use their own pen or be signed in. This log may be shared with the contact tracing team if there is a suspected/confirmed case of COVID-19.

Unplanned visits shall not be facilitated. The Person in Charge / Designee will be notified of any difficulties encountered in implementation of this measure.

Visitors should be guided in performing hand hygiene when they arrive.

Visitors are required to wear a surgical mask, apron and gloves for the duration of the visit. This will be provided by the care home and its disposal will be monitored.

We encourage residents to practice physical distancing at all times when outside the care home and to wear a mask, ensuring Infection control and public health advice is adhered to.

Visits should only take place at times when the main cohort of staff are on duty and away from mealtimes with pre-arranged timings.

Use of the residents/visitors bathroom facilities is discouraged

The resident's right to decline a visitor shall be respected.

This guidance should enable care home managers to establish suitable visiting arrangements for their care home. Any such arrangements should be kept under review.

### **3. GUIDANCE FOR RESIDENTS WHO WISH TO LEAVE THE CARE HOME WITH THEIR VISITOR**

Residents may wish to leave the care home with their named visitor.

We encourage residents to practice social distancing at all times when outside the care home, ensuring Infection control and Public health advice is adhered to.

If residents wish to leave the care home for a period time, we discourage the use of public transport ensuring Infection Control precautions and Public health advice are adhered to.

We encourage residents and visitors to utilise outdoor spaces whilst out on leave, ensuring physical distancing is maintained in line with Public Health advice.

If, during a period away from the home, accidental exposure to others occurs with a perceived risk of infection the home should be immediately informed prior to return. Care homes are advised to encourage visitors to download the COVID ALERT app to help facilitate this.

With the potential for increased COVID-19 activity through winter months, separate measures may be recommended aside from this guidance, to address the risk of residents leaving care homes to make visits into the community, either on their own or with visitors.

#### 4. GUIDANCE FOR VISITING IN CARE HOMES IF THERE IS A CONFIRMED/SUSPECTED CASE OF COVID 19

If a suspected/confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs within a care home, family and friends should be advised that visiting is suspended in the interest of protecting residents, visitors and staff at this time.

However, there may be circumstances in which it may still be appropriate for family or other relevant persons to visit which will be assessed on case by case basis. Any such exception should be discussed with Infection Prevention and Control staff and a risk assessment undertaken.

#### 5. GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES VISITING

Professional disciplines should be made aware of the visiting processes which are: pre-visit screening call, symptom checking, determination of previous known exposure to COVID -19, and use of correct hand-hygiene techniques.

Depending on the activity, visitors must adhere to the PPE guidance, Infection Control and public health advice.

During the group activities, if unable to maintain physical distance recommendations, these activities must not take place.

If there is a confirmed/suspected COVID 19 case, professional discipline visits may be suspended depending on the nature of the visit.

#### 6. CONSULTATION

##### 6.1 Consultation Schedule

<b>Name and Title of Individual</b>	<b>Date Consulted</b>
DR Ivan Muscat Consultant Microbiologist	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020/ Sept 2020
Rose Naylor Chief Nurse	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020/ Sept 2020
Emma Baker Lead Nurse for Infection control	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020/ Sept 2020
Becky Sherrington Public Health	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020/ Sept 2020
Audrey Murphy Chief Inspector Jersey Care Commission	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2020/ Sept 2020

<b>Name of Committee/Group</b>	<b>Date of Committee / Group meeting</b>
Infection Control Meeting	1/10/20

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A summary of how this document will be implemented.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Circulate to Nursing and Care homes	Eleanor Burrell	ASAP
Circulate to Jersey Care Commission	Eleanor Burrell	ASAP
Publish on gov.je	Eleanor Burrell	ASAP









