

(Shortened) Visiting Policy during COVID 19 Pandemic

Our priority continues to be keeping the residents living with us and staff working at Abbey Lodge as safe as possible to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission. We understand that lockdown has been very difficult for many residents and families, both when we have been closed and when we have had restricted visiting during the summer.

The COVID pandemic is now a longer term health issue & our visiting policy ensures we adapt and are flexible to visiting in this period but adhere to government guidance.

Visiting is permitted regardless of the tier which the Kent Area is in. The policy will be reviewed as Government Guidance and the COVID 19 Pandemic changes:

- Appointment times will be 10:15, 11:30, 14:00, 15:30, 18:00 will last for 45 mins and can be booked by phone.
- Upon arrival all visitors must arrive with masks on, ring the front doorbell, wash hands and have their temperature's tested upon arrival.
- The 2-metre social distancing should be adhered to even behind a screen.
- Visits will be limited to the named individual or a maximum of two visitors per resident behind the Perspex screen. This is to limit the overall numbers of visitors to the care home and the consequent risk of infection.
- Visits will be restricted two visits per resident per week to allow all the residents and families the opportunity to see their loved one's. Where a family member is visiting for a short period from elsewhere in the UK we will allow three separate visits in a given 7 day period.
- If any of the residents are very poorly or potentially end of life, we will allow visits to take place within the home.
- In the event of an confirmed or suspected outbreak in our care home visiting will be suspended until we are COVID free.
- FaceTime with residents can be arranged for any time during 10am – 7pm (please respect meal times between 12:30-1:30 and 5-6pm).

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) to visit residents

LFT's return a COVID 19 test result within 30 minutes and are carried out on site. The use of LFT's for visiting relative's will be the decision of the Registered Manager who is best placed to assess the risk and safety to the wider home, in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic at a given point in time. Abbey Lodge Residential Home should make clear that Flow Testing does not completely remove the risk of infection associated with visiting.

- Testing will take place in the back entrance in the Porch and you will need to arrive 30 mins prior to your appointment to allow the test to be carried out.
- The test must return negative prior to entering the building.

- Visiting will be at the top end of the Dining Room and will be required to complete a Health Screening Questionnaire each time they visit, as well as a consent form for their test result to be shared with the home.
- Government requirements are that a visitor who tests positive to immediately self-isolate and complete a confirmatory PCR test which should be provided to them by the care home. If the confirmatory PCR comes back positive, their household must also self-isolate and contacts may also need to self-isolate in line with current government guidance. Consent is gained from visitors to participating in testing.

Abbey Lodge Residential Home