

## Visiting rules in England over the festive period

Version 2: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

*A bullet point summary is on pages 2-3*

### The rules in full

#### **I. For both Registered Care Homes and shared supported living settings**

Our policy is always to try to accommodate visits to the people we support whenever possible, taking account of the needs of the people being visited and any potential risks to the other people who live in a service. However, please book any visit to or from a service in advance with the Locality Manager, and bear in mind that it may be necessary to restrict the number of visitors at any one time depending on the size of the service so that social distancing can be maintained.

Currently we ask all visiting family members and friends to wear surgical facemasks when visiting inside, and other PPE as necessary – we can provide this on arrival. We also ask all visitors to take a lateral flow test and return a negative result on the day of the visit itself and to present this on arrival (unless they have proof of a positive test result in the last 90 days, in which case they should present this).

All visitors to our services will need to have their temperature checked before entering, and this must be below 37.8 degrees Celsius. Visitors to Registered Care Homes also need to sign a visitors' book. We don't require visiting family members or friends to evidence their vaccination status. Visitors should not visit if they are feeling unwell, even if they have tested negative.

Every overnight visit out of one of our services to the home of a family member or friend needs to be risk assessed by the locality manager or someone delegated to do so by the locality manager. We ask that sensible precautions are taken while the person is away but social distancing is not required.

If a person we support stays away for one or more nights, they should take a lateral flow test if possible and return a negative result within 24 hours of returning home. The risk assessment might identify the need for further measures when the person returns home,

such as an additional PCR test if the person lives with others who are clinically extremely vulnerable or 14 days of self-isolation if the visit has been deemed as high risk.

If a person we support comes into contact with someone who subsequently tests positive for Covid-19, they do not need to self-isolate as long as they are fully vaccinated. They will need to take a daily lateral flow test for 10 days.

These arrangements may change over the next few weeks depending on the circumstances.

## **2. Additional rules for Registered Care Homes**

People who live in Registered Care Homes can only have three regular designated visitors, plus a designated essential care giver or pre-school age children. If there is a Covid-19 outbreak, only the essential care giver can visit.

There is no limit on visitors when people are receiving end of life care, and visits by health and social care workers and other professionals are not included in the three visitor rule.

There are no time limits on visiting, so long as safe practices are maintained. People who live in Registered Care Homes can stay away at the home of a family member or friend, but those who are not fully vaccinated will need to self-isolate for 14 days when they return.

### **Summary of the rules**

- Book any visit to or from a service in advance with the Locality Manager.
- For people living in Registered Care Homes, only three regular visitors plus a designated essential care giver, as well as pre-school age children, can visit.
- It may be necessary to restrict visitor numbers at any one time.
- All visitors must wear a facemask and possibly other PPE. This will be provided.
- All visitors must present a negative lateral flow test taken on the day of the visit, or proof of a positive result in the last 90 days.
- All visitors must have their temperature checked before entering.
- Visitors to Registered Care Homes must sign a visitors' book.

- Visiting family members and friends don't need to be vaccinated against Covid-19.
- All overnight visits out of our services must be risk-assessed.
- People we support who stay away overnight should take a lateral flow test before coming back.
- For people who live in Registered Care Homes, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days when they come back from an overnight stay if they are not fully vaccinated. This does not apply to people who are fully vaccinated.
- Fully vaccinated people who come into contact with someone who develops Covid-19 don't need to self-isolate, even if they had contact with someone who has the Omicron variant, but they will need to take daily lateral flow tests instead.