

COCKLEBURY FARMHOUSE HOMES CORONAVIRUS VISITOR POLICY (updated 1st April 2022)

Cocklebury Farmhouse, 13 Greenway Park & 79 Malmesbury Road

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). However, vaccination is proving very effective, and we now have to balance risk with continuing with life.

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. In some cases, there will be isolation on return from some high-risk activities out of the home.

There are no limits to visitor numbers.

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

General Note:

- Residents and staff have received the initial two vaccinations and the 'booster',
- (From 4th April) Staff now test twice a week Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests
- The home observes rigorous Infection Prevention and Control procedures,

However, there is still a chance that virus transmission may occur as a result of a 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.
- Visitors will be asked to sanitise their hands 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. This will be discussed with you prior to the visit.
- There are no restrictions against physical contact (obviously, consent from the individual is required). Infection Prevention measures in place such as handwashing and ventilation.
- 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. 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

From 15th March 2022, there is no longer a requirement for any visitors to prove they have had any Covid-19 vaccine, although we still very much encourage everyone to have the vaccines to help keep everyone safe.

Visitor Testing

There is now no longer a requirement for visitors to test before entering the home

ACTION REQUIRED ON THE DAY -

1. The person due to visit will have the following questions posed:
 - ***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??***
2. The visitor will be asked to use alcohol hand rub to cleanse their hands. This is provided.

3. 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.

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.

Outdoor visits are permitted for those who have not tested positive or have symptoms.

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

Cocklebury Farmhouse Homes Ltd Managers

1st April 2022