

12th May 2021

Dear Sir /Madam

National Care Group COVID-19 Response

I am writing to update you on a change to guidance which comes into effect from 17th May 2021, relating to visits inside and outside of care homes for individuals supported and which you may have seen reported in national and local media.

Delivering the right support at this difficult time

I am pleased to update you that guidance released by the Government will now allow all individuals supported in a residential care homes to receive more visitors from 17th May.

Individuals can be visited by 5 named visitors (including their essential care giver if they have one) however a maximum of 2 visitors only will be authorised at any one time or on a given day. These daily limits do not apply for very young children or essential care givers.

Testing for visitors will be as follows;

- Essential care givers will need to follow the same testing regime as staff.
- All other visitors will need to test with a rapid lateral flow test on the day of the visit.

In addition, from Monday 17th May individuals will have more opportunities to make visits out of their residential care home with no need to self-isolate when they return.

Activities outside of the care home that will not require self-isolation include:

- outdoor visits to parks, beaches or gardens
- medical appointments
- visiting day centres
- attending educational settings
- going to work

Visits outside of the care home will be planned in consultation with the individual supported, family members if necessary and the local manager. Any other visit types will still require an isolation period of 14 days on return from a visit.

Individuals will not need to take a test when making visits outside of the home unless they are visiting somewhere with an existing testing regime, e.g. a workplace, day care centre or education setting. If this is the case they should participate in the relevant testing regime for that organisation where possible.

We are delighted that these changes provide a greater degree of empowerment for individuals supported to enable them to take another step forward in getting their lives back to normal.

We are here to provide support

If you would like to arrange a visit inside or outside of the care home for your relative or friend please do not hesitate to contact the local service manager in order to discuss and agree the arrangements which will need to adhere to the principles above.

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Values: **Passion** | **Empowerment** | **Respect** | **Collaboration**

Where COVID – 19 cases are suspected or confirmed, visiting arrangements will be reviewed and amended to restrict to only essential visits.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your local team.

Thank you once again for your continued support at this difficult time.

James Allen
Chief Executive