



Reply to	Christina Gray
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Fax	
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Our ref	CH visiting 1
Your ref	
Date	July 31st 2020

Dear Manager

I would like to thank you and your staff for all your hard work during this COVID 19 pandemic. I am sure we all welcome the opportunity to plan the partial opening up of your homes for visiting of your residents.

The national guidance on visiting arrangements in Care Homes published on 22 July 2020 requires the Director of Public Health to provide you with a risk assessment and advice about visiting.

The national guidance can be found here:

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

Director of Public Health Advice

Risk assessment requires consideration of the circumstances of the individual care home and the local epidemiological risk and the presence of outbreaks in the community.

As the incidence and rate of infection in Bristol and surrounding areas is currently low and I can advise you that you can now develop and implement a visitor policy.

Your visitor policy should be developed in line with national guidance and on the basis of dynamic risk assessment which takes account of your particular situation and the significant vulnerability of your residents.

Local guidance on care home visiting will be regularly reviewed and updated in response to evidence of community hotspots or outbreaks.

If there is an occasion when I need to advise that your individual home needs to further restrict or stop visiting, either temporarily or long term, I will inform the Adult Care Commissioning Team at Bristol City and the registered manager.

People Directorate
City Hall, College Green, Bristol,
BS1 5TR

Christina Gray
Director of Public Health

Website
www.bristol.gov.uk

Developing and implementing your visitor policy

Your visitor policies must be in line with government guidance on [visiting care homes](#) and on [working safely in care homes](#).

You should carry out continual risk assessments of the COVID situation in your home. This should include:

- the results of your whole care home testing
- reports from staff that may have been tested outside of whole care home testing
- Your covid -secure arrangements
- the speed with which you can return to essential visits only.

Whole care home testing is continuing and if your home does have a single case or an outbreak then you will need to immediately return to essential visits only (for example, end of life), with no exceptions until the outbreak is over (28 days from last suspected or confirmed case). In the event that you have suspected case or outbreak this should be reported to the South West PHE Health Protection Team immediately.

Please ensure the Capacity Tracker is completed daily and this will help provide assurance and give early warning if there were to be an outbreak. It will also help to provide confidence to us of your regular reporting, as well as giving us confidence that any new cases would be rapidly reported to the local PHE Health Protection Team.

Managing a dynamic situation going forward

Infection prevention and control remains of paramount importance, which means that if I do receive concerns relating to this about any particular care home, our local wrap around services, which include Sirona, the BNSSG Infection Prevention and Control, and adult social care workers, will be in touch and we would expect visiting to be suspended while the issue is investigated.

On occasion, a local situation may arise where the advice from Public Health England is that visiting should be suspended. Under these circumstances care homes will be notified. We are monitoring the situation closely and if any restrictions are required we will communicate them directly to affected providers

Confirmation of your arrangements

In line with the above guidance please confirm by return to PH Health Protection ph.healthprotection@bristol.gov.uk - marked Care Home (Name) Risk Assessment

- whether you are currently open for visitors,
- and if you are, or if you are planning to do so, that in line with the national guidance you have in place

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- a risk assessment for visiting
- a visitor's policy (including infection control measures for visits)
- a dynamic risk based approach to facilitating and managing visits (see link to Care Alliance protocol in the guidance)
- a process for making visiting decisions for an individual resident or group of residents
- plans to impose visiting restrictions in the event of an outbreak in your home or a local lockdown
- a system to keep records of visitors to support the NHS Track and Trace system

Yours faithfully

Christina Gray

Director of Public Health

CC:

The Care Forum

Adult Social Care

BNSSG CCG care commissioners

BNSSG IPC Cell

SW PHE HP team

Bristol Health Protection Committee

Bristol COVID 19 Communications and Engagement Board (fyi Tim Borrett)

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