

# Triggers and associated local actions for care home visiting: 24/07/2020

## Introduction

On 22/07/2020 new government guidance was published on visiting care homes during coronavirus. This guidance includes information about making arrangements for limited visits for care homes with the support of their local Director of Public Health (DPH).

The DPH local framework for Somerset is laid out below, and is intended to support you with your visiting policies. It is aligned with the alert level published by the Joint Biosecurity Centre.

## The local guidance for each level is as follows:

<b>All levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If a home has an open outbreak, <b>there should be no visiting</b></li><li>• If a home is in a geography that has become subject to a local 'lockdown' <b>there should be no visiting</b></li></ul>
<b>Level 1</b>	Routine visiting and standard Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) precautions in place
<b>Level 2</b>	Family visiting, standard IPC precautions in place, physical distancing and recording of all visitors for NHS Test and Trace. There needs to be a risk assessment at individual resident level for those with specific clinical vulnerabilities
<b>Level 3</b>	Visiting of immediate family, physical distanced, outside where possible and enhanced IPC precautions. All visitors need to be recorded for NHS Test and Trace. There needs to be a risk assessment at individual resident level for those who are vulnerable, for example (but not limited to) those at end of life or with specific clinical vulnerabilities
<b>Level 4</b>	Very restricting visiting, ideally one consistent visitor for each care home resident. All physical distancing measures and IPC in place. All visitors need to be recorded for NHS Test and Trace. There needs to be a risk assessment at individual resident level for those who are vulnerable, for example (but not limited to) those at end of life or with specific clinical vulnerabilities.
<b>Level 5</b>	No visiting and consider housing staff within the home

## Suggested precautions for all levels:

- Visits by appointment
- Gaps between visits to allow for access and egress
- Visits should be in garden, with a structure for cover during inclement weather
- Social distancing maintained
- Hand washing station
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn by all
- Temperature checks for all visits
- Limit visits to 45 mins

## Specific actions to enable visiting within care homes:

- The above visiting measures are dependent on homes engaging with regular retesting processes, on at least a monthly basis for residents and ideally weekly for staff
- Twice weekly completion of the action tracker, which will be reviewed by the DPH or their representative on a weekly basis

## Role of the Registered Manager:

The arrangements for visits are ultimately the decision of the registered manager of a setting, as they know their setting and residents best, however, we want to support their decisions and hope this framework is helpful. If you have any queries please contact [ASCcovid19@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:ASCcovid19@somerset.gov.uk)

## Coronavirus Alert Levels used by the Joint Biosecurity Centre:

### Coronavirus alert levels in England

Stage of outbreak		Measures in place
Risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed	<b>5</b>	Lockdown begins
Transmission is high or rising exponentially	<b>4</b>	Social distancing continues
Virus is in general circulation	<b>3</b>	Gradual relaxation of restrictions
Number of cases and transmission is low	<b>2</b>	Minimal social distancing, enhanced tracing
Covid-19 no longer present in UK	<b>1</b>	Routine international monitoring