

Phased Reopening of the Home- COVID-19 Pandemic Policy

Version 1.1 Written 01 July 2020

This policy aims to provide protocols for reopening Verulam House Nursing and Residential home while keeping Residents, Staff and Visitors safe during the COVID 19 pandemic. The protocols aim to minimise the risk of the introduction to, or spread within, Verulam House.

The management team at Verulam house are planning to support residents to see their families in person again. Visits to the home will need to be managed because our vulnerable residents are at higher risk from COVID 19.

We plan to introduce relaxing of visiting restrictions in stages, provided the Home is COVID free and in accordance with government advice.

We have planned four stages until the Home is able to return to normal service. Each stage will be in place for 28 days. This is twice as long as the recommended 14 days and is designed to protect staff, visitors and our vulnerable residents. The safety of our Residents is our priority.

AT ALL THE FOLLOWING STAGES SOCIAL DISTANCING OF TWO METRES IS MANDATORY

Stage 1:

- Window Visits
- Essential visits- Allowing a family member to visit their loved ones if they are at end stage of life

Stage 2:

- Essential visits - Allowing a family member to visit their loved ones if they are at end stage of life
- A Designated Area within the Stable Block Annexe will be adapted to allow one family member to visit, with a Garden visit allowed in a designated space in the Garden on warm/hot days.
- Staff will need to ensure that all visitors are wearing a face mask and sanitise their hands before and after visiting the resident. Hand sanitisers will be made available at all times.

Stage 3:

- Essential visits- Allowing a family member to visit their loved ones if they are at end stage of life
- Garden Visits- with two or three visitors by appointment only
- Indoor visits- One key family member only – These visits will be in the Stable Block Annexe.

Stage 4:

- Essential Visits- Allowing a family member to visit their loved ones if they are at end stage of life
- Controlled management of garden and indoor visits
- Visits will be arranged with you by the Matron/ General manager.

In door visits will be restricted to one named person (designated visitor), once a week for 30 minutes with pre- arranged appointments. This is to ensure that we can control the number of people coming into the Home and allow the home time to sanitise the allocated visiting Rooms between visits.

The temperature of each visitor will be checked and recorded on their arrival to the Home. They will not be permitted to visit the resident if they have a temperature above 37.8°C.

Visitors will be informed that they are not to visit the home if they feel unwell, particularly with any of the COVID 19 symptoms.

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Area's used for the purpose of visiting will be sanitised between each visit to prevent cross infection between resident, staff and visitors.

A 'Designated person visiting protocol: COVID-19' risk assessment has been put in place for each resident. This identifies the potential risk for introducing COVID-19 or other infections into the home, households of visitors and into the community. It also details processes that have been put into place to minimise the risk of an outbreak of infection, when visiting to the home resumes.

Visitors are to complete a 'Visiting Questionnaire' form to confirm that they do not have any symptoms at the time of the visit and to provide contact details to assist Public Health England with the 'Track and Trace' system. These forms must be complete truthfully.

During the first four stages of the phased reopening of the Home children will not be permitted to visit. Once phase four has been in effect for the 28 days and provided the Home is COVID-19 free this policy will be reviewed.

Flexibility will be required from visitors and staff during this phased reopening. In the event of an outbreak, the management team will impose visiting restrictions to protect our vulnerable residents, the staff and visitors.

Failure to follow the Homes infection and prevention control measures and social distancing may affect the ability to visit in the future.

Any gifts or parcels are to be left at reception. This is so that they can be sanitised before they are given to any resident.

Authorised: Deborah Jennings	Date: 01/02/2020
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