



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
 2. Health and social care (<https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care>)
 3. Arrangements for visiting out of the care home
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home>)
- Department of Health & Social Care (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>)

Guidance

Visits out of care homes: supplementary guidance

Updated 1 May 2021

Contents

Summary

Visits out of care homes to spend time outdoors

Other visits out of the care home

[Print this page](#)



© Crown copyright 2021

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) (<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3>) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home/visits-out-of-care-homes-supplementary-guidance>

This guidance is to be read in conjunction with [Visits out of care homes](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home/visits-out-of-care-homes) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home/visits-out-of-care-homes>) published on 7 April 2021.

This supplementary guidance applies to residential care homes, and care home residents of all ages. There is separate guidance for supported living and extra care settings (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-living-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-supported-living>).

The measures described in this supplementary guidance relate to visits where the resident leaves the care home premises. Visits with friends and family that take place in the care home garden, or other outdoor spaces on the premises, are described in our [care homes visiting guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>).

Summary

Following a review of the evidence, undertaken with our clinical advisers, this supplementary guidance provides for residents to leave their care homes, to spend time outdoors, without the need to isolate on their return.

Visits out of care homes to spend time outdoors

From 4 May 2021, residents should be enabled to leave their care home to spend time outdoors, without subsequent isolation for 14 days, in the following circumstances:

- residents may be accompanied by:
 - a member of care home staff
 - one or both of their nominated visitors
 - their essential care provider (where applicable)
- care homes should discuss arrangements with residents' nominated visitors, or essential care provider, in advance
- visits should take place solely outdoors, except for the use of toilet facilities
- there should be no visits to indoor spaces (public or private)
- the exception to this is that residents will be able to access polling stations
- visits should not involve the use of public transport

Where a care home is situated in a local community with high, or rapidly rising, levels of infection, and/or where there is evidence of variants of concern (VOCs), care home managers should seek additional local advice from directors of public health.

Where the visit out of the care home includes visiting a polling station, the following additional measures should be in place:

- residents should be accompanied to the polling station by a member of care home staff to help facilitate a safe journey

- residents (and staff accompanying them) should adhere to all social distancing measures in place at the polling station

Where people living in care homes are registered to vote, care providers should take all reasonable steps to support them to do so.

An emergency proxy vote can be obtained by 5pm on polling day if adhering to coronavirus advice or guidance would prevent a resident from going to the polling station. This would be the case where a resident has tested positive for COVID-19, or there has been an outbreak in their care home, for example.

Other visits out of the care home

Visits out of the care home which do not meet the criteria set out above will need to follow the guidance in Visits out of care homes (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home/visits-out-of-care-homes>), including guidance on the need for residents to isolate for 14 days on return to the care home.

Print this page