

Information Sheet for visitors:

Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice Visitors' Agreement

The Hospice has a duty of care towards its patients, their visitors and staff, and we are taking every precaution to minimise the risks posed by Infections such as Coronavirus (COVID-19), Noro Virus etc.

Hospice patients, particularly those who are on the Inpatient Unit, are potentially vulnerable to infections. The Hospice continues to consider government guidance alongside the needs of individual patients and families when determining the necessary steps to protect our patients and staff; these are continually monitored, and our processes updated as required.

Before visiting your loved one on the Hospice Inpatient Unit, we ask you to please read the following and if you agree to abide by the guidelines, sign where indicated.

The guidelines are:

Do not visit the Hospice if you have COVID -19 symptoms or other respiratory infections or have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or any symptoms of Noro virus.

The symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling tired and exhausted
- An aching body
- A headache
- A sore throat
- Blocked or runny nose
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms of Noro virus can include:

- Feeling sick or being sick
- A high temperature
- Diarrhoea

However, if you do not have any of the above symptoms, but feel unwell, it is wise to stay away and seek medical advice if symptoms persist.

Visiting Agreement for people visiting the Hospice Inpatient Unit

All visitors to the Hospice must respect the measures that we have put in place to maintain everyone's safety.

We would ask the Next of Kin to kindly support us in keeping our patients safe by informing any additional people, who are planning to visit the patient, the importance of not attending the hospice if they have any of the above symptoms.

General Guidance for visiting

When you are planning to visit a patient on the Inpatient Unit, it is essential that every visitor agrees to the following:

- Maintain good hand hygiene, always clean your hands when entering and exiting the ward and wash/sanitise your hands regularly during your visit. Please use the hand sanitizer and hand washing sinks.
- Adhere to all Hospice risk management procedures that have been put in place in line with the Department for Health and Social Care Standard Operating Procedures
- If you feel unwell, please where possible do not come to the hospice, if you do make the decision to attend and have cold like symptoms, we ask that you wear a face covering when entering the Inpatient Unit (Ward).
- Please wear your own face covering; if you do not have one then please speak to a member of staff and you will be provided with one.

Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD)

If you are visiting the hospice, you are not required to test before entering the hospice. If you are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19, however, please do not visit unless you have completed a negative lateral flow test.

Other Symptoms

If you feel sick or have been sick or have diarrhoea, we ask that you do not visit the hospice until 48 hours after you were last symptomatic.

Testing yourself:

At Home:

If you chose to continue with LFD, please follow the instructions in the kit and carry out the test the morning of your visit.

You can get a supply of tests to do at home from local high street pharmacies who charge about £2 per test.

Some people may still qualify for free LFD tests if you think you are eligible you can order on the government website, by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or you can call 119.

Visiting patients on the Inpatient Unit (Ward)

- There are no set visiting hours
- Children of any age may visit
- Pets are allowed to visit patients
- Visitors no longer need to wear a face covering when visiting the ward unless choose too or if they have cold like symptoms.

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NoK: I have read, understood and agree to abide by these guidelines:

Your name

I am visiting.....

Your signature

Date

NoK: I have read, understood and agree to abide by these guidelines:

Your name

I am visiting.....

Your signature

Date