

Professional Visitor Protocol – November 2022

Introduction

From April 2022 there is no longer a requirement for professionals to be fully vaccinated (or exempt) to visit a care home. Whilst there is no longer a requirement for vaccination or to undertake asymptomatic testing; West Berkshire Council feel that it is appropriate to continue to offer guidance regarding visiting restrictions or conditions within Care Homes.

We are moving to a RED, AMBER, GREEN status. Guidance will be provided by the home manager regarding any change in status and the relevant protocol to follow.

GREEN – low numbers of community transmission, no outbreak within the home

AMBER – rising number of community transmission, potential impact on staff and residents within the home is minor

RED – high numbers of community transmission, outbreak within the home or lockdowns have been implemented.

NB This policy is specifically for visiting professionals.

Scope

A wide range of people not based in a care home may need to enter a care home as part of their work. This includes public servants including visiting healthcare professionals or social care workers, as well as those delivering non-care services such as hairdressing, maintenance, or activities.

Please check with the registered manager at the care home to see if it applies to you.

LFD Testing

All professionals visiting a care home are no longer required to test, however they may choose to do so. The home manager, or other staff member may ask you if are willing to undertake a test prior to your visit or entering the care home.

Any test undertaken prior to the visit must be registered on the NHS website so that evidence of a negative result can be shown on arrival at the care home or a test can be conducted on site.

PPE

Infection prevention control measures such as PPE are still required in residential care settings. PPE requirements will remain in line with current government guidance on how to work safely in care homes [Infection prevention and control guidance](#) .

We would advise you to check this beforehand to ensure correct compliance.

Jo England, Service Lead Adult Social Care

November 2022



WestBerkshire
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