

Visiting Loved Ones – Guidance by Stage

The following visitor guidance applies to hospitals. Areas where there is a COVID-19 outbreak or areas with COVID-19 positive patients should remain at Stage 1 restrictions, with essential visitors only. However, essential visits can still take place in COVID-19 areas.

Requirements for all visits:

- physical distancing must be observed by visitors wherever possible
- hand hygiene and face coverings used
- restricted movement in other areas of the hospital not linked to the patient's care

STAGE 1

Do not visit if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are self-isolating

Essential visits only – This refers to situations that include, but are not limited to:

- end of life care
- stress and distress behaviours – including dementia, learning disabilities and autism
- birthing partners
- children

STAGE 2

From 13 July 2020

Do not visit if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are self-isolating

Essential visits + visits with a single designated visitor as long as:

- visits are arranged in advance
- local risk assessment in place
- hand hygiene and face coverings used
- physical distancing observed

STAGE 3

Do not visit if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are self-isolating

Essential visits + visits with 2 designated visitors as long as:

- both designated visitors attend at the same time if possible
- all Stage 2 restrictions remain in place
- hand hygiene and face coverings used
- physical distancing observed

STAGE 4

Do not visit if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are self-isolating

Essential visits + at this stage hospitals will have an implementation plan in place to return to person-centred visiting with no time restrictions within a four week period.

During this time:

- limited visits to other patients may be permitted
- hand hygiene guidance to be followed
- physical distancing guidelines may change for this stage
- local restrictions may need to be reintroduced as required