

Visiting people in hospital during COVID-19

The health, safety and wellbeing of our patients, communities and individuals and teams remain our absolute priority.

We understand many of you will be eager to visit, but we need to ensure this is done safely, ensuring social distancing and other government advice is followed. We will continue to review our visiting arrangements in line with national guidance and the local infection rates.

We appreciate how hard it has been to keep in touch with loved ones who are in hospital with these restrictions in place. We'd like to thank you for your support and understanding during this difficult time.

This guidance is subject to change at short notice

Visits are:

- Limited to **one** close family contact or somebody important to the patient.
- Up to **one-hour** duration up to **three** times per week

*Except in exceptional circumstances as outlined on the final page of this leaflet.

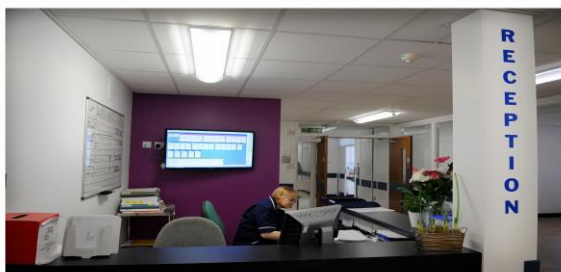
How do I arrange a visit?

- Contact the ward to discuss appropriate arrangements
- You should contact by **12pm** to arrange visits for the **following day** or later that week
- You will be asked some questions when you get in touch to decide if a visit can go ahead. These questions will be asked every time you visit to ensure everyone's safety

You will not be able to visit if you have any COVID-19 symptoms/ have tested positive	
You will not be able to visit if you've been advised to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace	

The ward staff will let you know what to expect when coming to our wards.

It may be that the ward has to restrict or postpone your visit if there are too many visitors to allow for social distancing and safety of all. We apologise in advance if this occurs.










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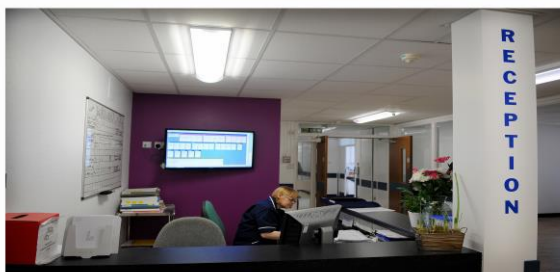
Visiting our adult inpatient wards during the COVID-19 pandemic

Hospitals are high risk environments. To ensure that we can maintain our levels of safety for everyone, it is important for everyone to follow the national guidance on social distancing and self-isolation, staying at home wherever possible, to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

Visiting the hospital may put you in contact with people that are COVID positive, all possible precautions are in place but the risk of exposure cannot be completely eliminated. If you are considered at 'high risk' visiting is not recommended and you do so at your own risk.

Before your visit, a member of our ward staff will ask you the following questions.

	<p>Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last 10 days?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new, continuous dry cough • A high temperature • A loss of or change in your normal sense of taste or smell 	 Must not visit
	<p>Have you been in contact with a known COVID case in the past 14 days?</p> <p>Are you or any member of your household self-isolating?</p> <p>Are you currently shielding for health reasons?</p>	
	<p>Have you recently returned from overseas travel and been advised to quarantine?</p>	
	<p>Are you aged over 70?</p>	
	<p>Are you pregnant?</p>	<p>There is a higher risk to your health if you answer 'yes' to any of these questions.</p>
	<p>Do you live in a ward area where local lockdown restrictions continue to be enforced?</p>	



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Please note you will be at increased risk of contracting COVID if you fall into the below categories:

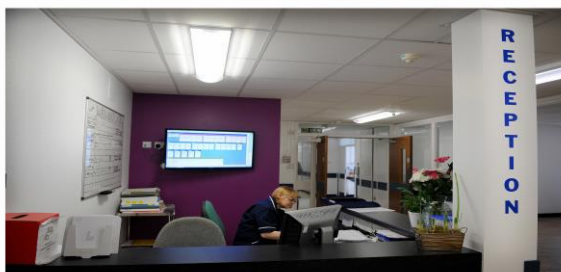
- Solid organ transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers:
- People undergoing active chemotherapy
- People with lung cancer undergoing radical radiotherapy
- People with cancers of the blood, or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma at any stage of treatment
- People having immunotherapy or other continuous antibodies for cancer
- People having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system such as protein, kinase inhibitors, PARP inhibitors
- People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last six months or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- People with severe respiratory conditions including cystic fibrosis, severe asthma or COPD.
- People with rare diseases and in-born errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
- People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase the risk of infection.
- Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

When the ward staff have asked all questions, you will be asked to sign a copy of the document when you arrive for your visit.

- I understand the visiting restrictions in place
- I agree to adhere to the precautions in place including wearing PPE, ensuring that I socially distance and wash my hands before entering and leaving the ward
- I understand that if I fall into the increased risk category/categories, that I visit at my own risk.





Signature of relative/ carer:.....

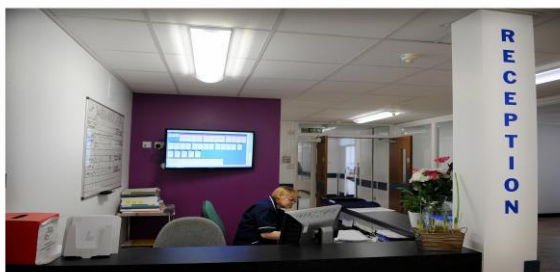
Date:.....






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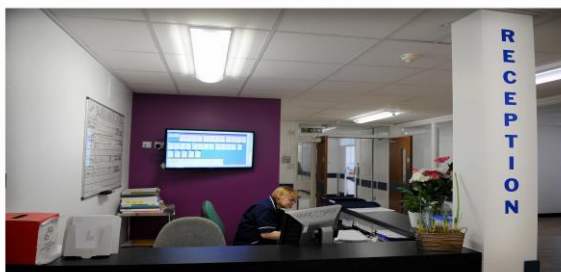
What to expect when you visit our hospitals:

	<p>You must wear your own face covering when coming in to the hospital building. If driving by car, please park in Car Park 3. For visitors to AAU or ED, you can park in Car Park 1.</p>
	<p>Only one visitor is allowed per patient and this must continue to be the same visitor unless otherwise agreed with the ward sister.</p> <p>If you become unwell, go on holiday or need to self-isolate you can identify one other individual to visit in the meantime.</p>
	<p>When you arrive at the ward please ring the bell or enter and speak to a member of staff.</p> <p>You will be provided with a surgical face mask to wear on the ward – these are available at each ward entrance.</p> <p>Please keep the mask on for the duration of your time in the hospital and avoid touching your face or adjusting the mask once you've put it on.</p> <p>If your loved one is on a COVID ward, you may be asked to wear different PPE.</p> <p>Please do not take off your PPE, if you feel uncomfortable, please talk to a member of staff.</p>
	<p>Do not arrive too early for your visit and leave the ward as soon as your visit has finished. You should not visit any other part of the hospital. Visits should last no longer than one hour.</p> <p>If you need some quiet time and space, there is a room by the Chapel located at C2 and some wards have relatives' rooms.</p>



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	<p>Clean your hands using the disinfectant hand sanitiser provided or soap and water where available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on arrival to the hospital on entering the ward/department • when putting on or taking off any personal protective equipment (PPE) or face coverings • on leaving the patients bed space • on leaving the ward or department • on leaving the hospital building • as soon as you get home <p>It is advisable to change your clothes when you return home and put them in the washing machine.</p>
	<p>The Trust follows government two metre social distancing guidance wherever possible in the hospital. You are asked to adhere to this during your visit, including all communal areas and lifts. You will witness that this is not possible for staff when caring for patients.</p>
	<p>You should then follow the signs to leave the department. Please do not visit any other part of the hospital. You should dispose of your mask at the bin by the department exit.</p>
	<p>If you have any concerns, please speak to a member of the ward team.</p>



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Exceptional circumstances

Please discuss with a member of staff about how we can facilitate visiting more flexibly in the following circumstances:

- Carers for patients who require assistance e.g. supporting someone with a mental health condition, dementia, delirium, a learning disability or autism, where not being present would cause the patient to be distressed.
- Immediate family members/partners of those at end of life.

Supporting Relatives Services

We have set up a range of services to support relatives maintain contact during the suspension of visiting to the hospital. These services will continue to be provided. They include: A pick up/drop off service, Virtual Visiting, Care Parcel and a 'Sending Hugs' service to deliver get well wishes. More information is available on our website:

www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/covid-19-patient-information/

If you have any questions or would like further advice, please contact the department on your appointment letter.

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, the Text Relay Service can be used to contact us. Dial 18001 followed by the contact number on your letter.

If you require this leaflet in other languages or formats please telephone the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01535 294019