

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.

Due to the recent announcement of a second national lockdown the trust has taken the decision to suspend all visiting.

CORONAVIRUS
information

NHS
Airedale
NHS Foundation Trust

All visiting suspended

The only exceptions are:

- For end of life care
- A birthing partner accompanying a woman in labour or visiting the maternity ward
- An adult accompanying their child in paediatrics or the neonatal unit
- Accompanying someone with a Learning Disability, Dementia or cognitive impairment, or in special circumstances

Do not enter the ward if you have not arranged a visit with the ward staff

For more information visit our website or scan this code with the camera on your phone



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Visiting our adult inpatient wards during the COVID-19 pandemic

If a visit has been agreed with ward staff you must adhere to the following national advice

	<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>There is a higher risk to your health if you answer 'yes' to any of these questions.</p>
	<p>Are you aged over 70?</p>	
	<p>Are you pregnant?</p>	
	<p>Do you live in a ward area where local lockdown restrictions continue to be enforced?</p>	

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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>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>
	<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>

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	<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>

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