

Visiting Guidance – December 2021

To All Families and Carers

Following the recent Government update on guidance on care home visiting we have made further updates to our Visiting Policy for both Waters Edge and Lakeview Care Homes. Our current policy falls in line with the latest formal written guidance for safe visiting, which allows named visitors, in addition to Essential Care Givers, and we are so pleased to be able to see regular visiting continuing.

All named visitors will need to follow important steps to ensure everyone is kept safe, these are set out in our Visiting Policy and include the following:

- All visits are strictly arranged by appointment only, with the agreement to any visit ultimately being determined by each home's Registered Manager.
- All visitors will need to take a rapid Covid test using a Lateral Flow Device ("LFD"), this will take place in our dedicated on site Visitors Testing Suite. Our team will be available to assist you. If the test is negative the visit can go ahead.
- Our Covid Testing team are also assisting a number of Visitors who are completing LFD tests at home prior to attending site. Please discuss this with the team if this is something you wish to do as well.
- All visitors will need to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which will be explained to you by our Covid testing team and is available throughout our services.

The latest restrictions on care home visiting are due to the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 and from the 15th December 2021 every care home resident can nominate up to three visitors who will be able to enter the care home for regular visits (this number does not include Essential Care Givers or pre-school age children).

As ever we would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding and look forward to continuing visits to The Lakes.

Thank you

Mark Tomalin, Chief Executive Officer