



22 May 2020

Information for visitors

Western Sussex Hospitals Trust is doing everything possible to support compassionate visiting arrangements for those receiving care at the end of life.

Family or friends who wish to visit loved ones at the end of life are able to do so with certain measures being put in place. Whether you are visiting a loved one who is approaching the end of their life with Coronavirus or without, or you are visiting a faith leader we can advise on the safest way to do this.

When planning your visit please minimise the number of personal belongings you bring with you such as bags and electronic devices.

If, after reading this, you have any queries or concerns please contact the ward manager before your visit.

1. Patients with Coronavirus

In this situation the main risk is actually to you and those who are visiting their loved one. There will be increased risks, such as infection from entering a high-risk zone and precautions must be taken.

- Staff will equip you with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and direct you how this is to be worn and taken off.
- As long as you are wearing PPE you will not need to self-isolate afterwards as a result of the visit.
- You must also:
 - Stay at least 2 metres away from others as you enter and leave the ward setting and avoid touching any surfaces
 - Enter and leave the setting as quickly as possible using the most direct route.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover any coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in the nearest bin.
 - Wash your hands again with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you are leaving the hospital setting and then again as soon as you get home.
 - Follow stay at home guidance if you become unwell.

2. Patients without Coronavirus

The main potential risk to you when visiting a patient without Coronavirus is other people such as patients and staff, given the high prevalence of infection in healthcare settings.

It is important that any such risk is kept to an absolute minimum through strict adherence to wearing PPE, social distancing and rigorous respiratory and hand hygiene.

There is also a small risk to others from you entering the healthcare setting. Visiting is not permitted if:

- You are in a household that is self-isolating as you have been in contact with someone else who is suspected/confirmed to have coronavirus:
- If you are showing symptoms of coronavirus, (a new continuous cough or a high temperature) you should not visit, even if these symptoms are mild or intermittent.

You may attend if you are asymptomatic and adhere to the following:

- You must wear PPE when you enter a patient's accommodation area (eg bay or side room)
- Stay at least 2 metres away from others as you enter and leave the setting, and try not to touch any surfaces
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover any coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in the nearest bin.
- Wash your hands again with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you are leaving the setting and then again as soon as you get home.
- Enter and leave the setting as quickly as possible using the most direct route. If possible, the visit should take place in a side room.
- If you are asymptomatic and wear PPE, latest guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>)

Many thanks

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Contacts

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