

8 January 2021

Covid-19 Lockdown update

We hope you continue to remain safe and well and that you were able to enjoy Christmas, albeit different to normal. As was expected, following case numbers rising steeply across the country, we are again in another national lockdown.

The picture across the UK is worse this time round compared to the first wave, with the latest variant of the virus being much more transmissible. Hospital admissions are at an all-time high, with the risk that some are reaching capacity, and new daily infections and deaths continue to rise.

There has been an increase in the number of staff and people we support in our services who have become infected with the virus, and a few services experiencing outbreaks. Case numbers are rising but not as steeply as the national picture. Our staff continue to do a good job, adopting PPE and testing in order to keep people safe. Our rates show this is working and testing has also been further stepped up just before Christmas.

The better news is that the Coronavirus vaccine is starting to be rolled out to our services for people we support and staff, which we are all really delighted about.

The government has published lockdown rules which can be accessed following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

No social visits are allowed to the services in the event of an outbreak.

Indoor visits are not allowed without substantial screens or visiting pods, which we do not currently have. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. With this in mind, we would ask that you arrange outdoor visits.

Regarding visits out of care homes - people are not allowed to meet indoors to visit relatives in the family home.

As you will read in our updated Visiting Procedure, attached, there will be some exceptional circumstances when it may be necessary for measures to be put in place to enable someone to see their family indoors, however these may only be in exceptional cases.

All visits and arrangements need to continue to be arranged with the Managers and Deputy Managers of the services.

The current lockdown is expected to last until at least mid-February and we will continue to keep the situation under review.

We are grateful for your continued support and understanding.

Best Wishes

Martin Prescott
Director of Quality