

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## Revised guidance for visitors

In response to COVID19 we have made every effort to accommodate a practical approach to our policies around visiting. During the first stages of the pandemic, we kept our usual visiting processes however, following the Government's announcement for all citizens across the country to 'stay at home' we took the decision, along other NHS organisations to close our service to visitors from outside of the Trust. This was in response to evidence of the rapid spread of COVID19 and to ensure we did everything we could to keep our service users, staff and the general public safe.

During this time, we have also asked services to consider exceptions for those service users on end of life pathways of care and to consider any other requests on an individual basis.

Following further guidance and discussion across the groups and localities, visiting will remain suspended. The only exceptional circumstances where the number of visitors will be limited to one, are as follows:

- If the service user is receiving end of life care;
- If the visitor is a parent or appropriate adult visiting their child;
- If the visitor is supporting someone with a mental health issue such as dementia, a learning disability or autism, where their absence would cause the patient distress.

Speak to the ward/service if you require any further information.

