

Gloucestershire County Council
Shire Hall
Westgate Street
Gloucester
GL1 2TG

Date: 20.10.20

Dear colleague

Recommendation to suspend visiting to your home in a bid to slow the spread of Covid-19.

Cases of Covid-19 are continuing to rise in the county, and as a result, I am writing to you, with the support of the Covid-19 tactical coordination group to recommend that visiting to your home is suspended at this time.

The new guidance is part of a number of steps that we are taking to slow the spread of the virus in Gloucestershire. The six step plan, announced yesterday 19th October 2020, can be viewed here: (<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/our-six-step-plan/>).

This includes plans to write to those on the shielded list. If a resident who lives in your home is also on the shielded list, they should defer to the advice in this letter.

In cases where, sadly, residents are considered to be end of life, visiting arrangements can, and should, still be made in a safe and managed way. Please let us know if we can support you in facilitating this.

We know this will be really hard on the families, friends, and loved ones of residents and it's not a decision we have taken lightly but it is essential, if we are going to minimise the impact of Covid on those most at risk from it.

We will continue to work with you to explore alternative ways for residents to stay in touch with loved ones. Remember you can still apply for a free iPad using this NHSX form; (<https://gcpa.us15.listmanage.com/track/click?u=14caeea92cfcb2cec4a1c0d0a&id=660bd036c9&e=c9371df39a>). The deadline for applications is 23 October 2020. iPads are being prioritised for eligible care homes with the greatest need. The tablets will also allow staff to access NHS mail and other tools or systems needed to support care.

How to we decide whether are visiting should cease?

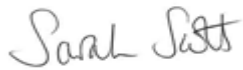
- Local cases and geographical mapping
- Test and trace information
- R value
- Cases in care homes
- Care home testing of staff and residents
- Infection, Prevention and Control and Personal Protective Equipment use in care homes

This information is reviewed at a minimum weekly and any change to the advice to cease visiting will be communicated directly to you via the GCC brokerage team.

Deprivation of Liberty

In light of the new guidance, we recommend that you review the latest DHSC guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes> regarding visits to care homes, which you will have seen, but does now cover the human right and mental capacity considerations.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Scott
Director of Public Health



Kim Forey
Director of Integration