

Public Health, E3 Zone 1
County Hall
Market Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1QH



Ref: carehome/080221

Date: 8 February 2021

Dear Care Home Manager

Continued cessation of social visiting in care homes

Unfortunately, the restrictions on social visiting to care homes for the elderly have not changed since my letter of 5th January. The levels of community transmission of the virus that causes covid-19 and the number of care home outbreaks are still too high for social visiting to be safe until either:

- At least 80% of care home residents have received at least one dose of a covid-19 vaccine at least two weeks before visiting recommences
- I write to inform you that care home visiting can recommence

Until one of the two points above has occurred of social visiting that could continue is window visits where the visitor is outside on one side of closed window and the resident is on the other side. There should be no indoor visits.

With many residents in care homes having been vaccinated a number of care homes will have achieved, or be about to achieve, the first condition. Once that condition is achieved the care home can resume covid-19 secure social visiting.

Currently the high rate of transmission in the community is reducing and the number of new care home outbreaks is decreasing. This gives hope that it will be possible for covid-19 secure social visiting to resume. I know social visits are of great importance to the wellbeing of residents, relatives, and staff. I shall not restrict it for any longer than is necessary.

Yours sincerely



Mike Gogarty
Director of Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities
Essex County Council