

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



Ref: carehome/240221

Date: 24 February 2021

Dear Care Home Manager

Social visiting in care homes

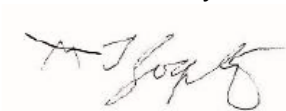
Covid-19 secure social visiting, in line with current Government guidance, can now recommence in all care homes in the Essex County Council area that are not currently experiencing an outbreak. This can now be done safely due to the reduction in community SARS-CoV-2 infections and the successful rolling out of the covid-19 vaccinations.

Such visiting is not without risk and we have seen recent outbreaks in care homes. Caution is still needed. The benefits that can be achieved through covid-19 secure visiting are significant enough to outweigh the risks.

The visiting still needs to comply with Government guidance that can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>. It includes outdoor, pod and screen visits.

The Government has also announced indoor visiting by a single, named individual will be permitted from 8 March. You can [read the announcement here](#) and further guidance will follow.

Yours sincerely



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