

Restricted visiting during COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatkach.

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Restricted Visiting

Keeping patients, visitors and our staff safe remains our priority during the pandemic and it is crucial that we do all we can to reduce the spread of infection.

In line with NHS guidance on managing COVID-19, we took the difficult decision to restrict visiting in our hospitals.

Only in the following exceptional circumstances is one visitor permitted:

- For patients who are in their last days/hours of life receiving end of life care
- Patients with a mental health issue such as dementia, a learning disability or autism, where not having a relative or carer present would cause them to be very distressed
- Children may have one parent or guardian stay with them when in hospital
- Babies up to 28 days old can have both parents with them in hospital
- Women may be accompanied by one birthing partner during active labour and childbirth

Visitors **must not** attend the hospital if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or if they are within the self-isolation period having tested positive for the virus.

Keeping in contact with loved ones

We recognise that not being able to receive visitors is difficult for both you and the people you are close to. Where possible, we strongly encourage that you remain in contact with your family and friends by mobile phone, free Wi-Fi is available to assist video calls like FaceTime and social media. Our ward staff are able to help if you do not have your own mobile phone. Alternatively, messages and photographs can be sent to you from your family or friends via our PenPALS service at pals@sthk.nhs.uk

Leaving the ward

To reduce the risk of spreading the virus to other patients, visitors and our staff, we must ask that you do not leave the ward to meet with family or friends in public areas within the hospital or the hospital grounds.

If you do need to leave the ward for a procedure or another essential reason, you will be asked to wear a face covering (medical face masks are provided) and regularly clean your hands, and maintain a 2 metre distance from others. Patients will be discouraged from leaving the ward to smoke and nicotine replacement therapy is available. Please discuss this with the nurse looking after you.

Personal items

If you require personal items bringing to the hospital, these can be dropped off at main reception by your family or friends and will be delivered to the ward by our volunteers. Please ask for the items to be clearly labelled with your name and the ward you are staying on.