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Aims for this WEBINAR

- Provide an overview of long term care homes in the UK with a focus to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Highlight the current UK guidance with regard to visits to residents in care homes

The care home sector in the UK

- **In the UK around 450,000 people live in long term residential and nursing homes (Laing & Buisson, 2010).**
- **This is a bed base three times that of the acute hospital sector in England (Ewbank et al., 2020).**
- **Most are aged over 80, many with a cognitive impairment including dementia related conditions as well as multiple co-morbidities (Gordon et al., 2014).**

The care home sector in the UK contd..

- **In the UK our care home provision is now predominately privately owned, operated by companies or individuals, chains of care homes, charities/religious organisations and a few operated by a local public authority**
- **Care homes in the UK are funded entirely differently from the National Health Service (NHS). Funding is predominately received from local and regional social care provision, although a large percentage of the residents are requiring nursing/health care**
- **Beds are often allocated and funded from a mixture of sources (public health or social care or from the resident)**
- **There are around 19,000 independently owned care homes in the UK**

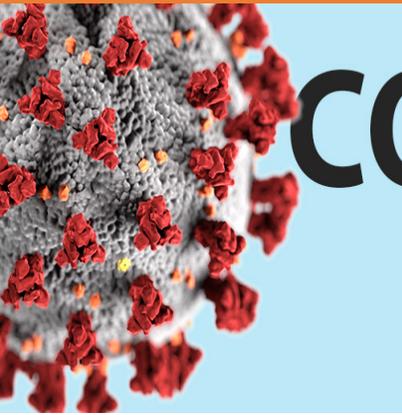
Covid-19 Global response and UK Government response

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on **30th January 2020** (ECDC 2020). It was classed as a pandemic on the **11 March 2020**.

On the **23rd March 2020** the UK population was advised *to stay at home, protect our NHS and save lives*

On the **4th January 2021** the UK went in to a **3rd lockdown** with *restrictions in place*.

A global response



COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Covid-19 UK Vaccinations and impact for visiting?

Current UK picture 31st January 2021 106,158 deaths* 5TH July 2020 44,220 deaths

People vaccinated up to and including 30 January 2021, First dose: 8,977,329, Second dose: 491,053

“Visiting is a central part of care home life. It is crucially important for maintaining health and wellbeing and quality of life for residents. Visiting is also vital for family and friends to maintain contact and life-long relationships with their loved ones and contribute to their support and care (often as essential carers)”

“Visiting should be supported and enabled wherever it is possible to do so safely – in line with this guidance and within a care home environment that takes proportionate steps to manage risks”

“Care home managers are best placed to decide how their care home can best enable visiting in a way that meets the needs of their residents both individually and collectively”

“The individual resident, their views, their needs and wellbeing should be considered for decisions about visiting, while recognising that the care home will need to consider the wellbeing of other residents as well”

“These decisions should involve the resident, their family and friends and the provider and other relevant professionals such as social workers or clinicians where appropriate”

Source: 12th January, 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

* deaths recorded within 28 days of a positive test result

Covid-19 UK vaccinations and impact for visiting?

Key message

We recognise that providers themselves are best placed to decide how such visits happen in practice, taking into account the needs and wellbeing of individual residents, and the given layout and facilities of the care home

“The care home’s visiting policy should be made available and/or communicated to residents and families, together with any necessary variations to arrangements due to external events. Care homes should also consider what additional communications (including posters, leaflets letters etc.) would help visitors to understand what to expect from visiting – including the length and frequency of visits as well as how they will be conducted. Advice for residents and families should be set out in the visiting policy of the care home and shared with them”

(Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>)



Covid-19 UK vaccinations and impact for visiting?

Today's headlines:

**COVID-19: Every care home resident in England has been offered a coronavirus jab
(Sky News)**

.....But no figure has been provided yet for how many people in care homes have had a coronavirus jab. Care minister Helen Whately told Sky News that will be announced later on Monday, and added that a "small number" of care homes have not yet been visited to have the vaccine offered because of an outbreak.

BBC News Covid: Care home vaccine 'milestone' reached in England

.....Asked whether care home workers should be compelled to have the vaccine, she said "at the moment" the government was trying to educate, encourage and reassure people who had reservations.

She also said there were no plans to give care home residents their second jab quicker to allow visiting but the government was working on "what we can do to enable visiting" again.

Asked if care home visits would have to wait until residents had received both doses, she told BBC Breakfast: "I'm not saying that", before adding that **"at the moment it's too soon" to allow indoor visiting as it takes time "to build up immunity"**.

Thank you



Happy to take questions and discussion



#hinsliffk

Study: The experience of family carers and keeping in regular contact with loved ones who permanently live in a care home during the COVID-19 Pandemic, a UK perspective

<https://www.dmu.ac.uk/research/centres-institutes/ihhpsc/project-information.aspx>

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