Safe Visiting in care homes - Recommendations

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Safe visiting at care homes during COVID-19: A review of international guidelines and emerging practices during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Blanket visitor and family caregiver bans should not be used to prevent COVID-19 infections in care homes
Isolation negatively impacts on mood and behaviour
Families felt guilt, fear, worry, isolation

My mother died in a nursing home and I was not allowed to see her. Don't let this happen to other families. LET FAMILIES IN NOW!
Increased staff workload, stress, burnout

“Sometimes we quickly pull our masks down to sneak a smile for the residents.”

- Nurse, aged care home
Safe on-site visiting practices should be used, with options chosen based on local levels of community transmission and in discussion with residents, families and staff and health authorities.
Reopening care homes to visitors and family caregivers using safe visiting practices does not lead to COVID-19 infections when community transmission levels are low.
There is no consensus on how low community transmission needs to be for safe visiting
Outdoor visiting
Indoor visiting in special rooms
Indoor visiting with touch barriers
‘Family caregivers’ should be designated an essential partners in a resident’s care during the pandemic and be able to have more frequent, longer hands-on visits if they can be supported to do so safely.
Care homes should receive additional government funding and support to implement safe visiting practices
Regulators should be ensuring that care homes meet residents’ rights to have visitors and that safe visiting practices are being used.