

# CORONAVIRUS POLICY

## JUNE 2020 (v9)

This policy has been written to cover the operational procedures necessary for Cornwallis to protect its service users, visitors and staff from the risks presented by Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

It includes:

- Information provision
- Travel restrictions
- Infection control and prevention procedures
- Staying home and Social Distancing
- Staff Health and Self-isolation
- Visiting
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Reporting
- Testing
- Residents Isolation
- DoLS
- Admissions to the Home, including from Hospital
- Business continuity procedures & Pandemic recovery planning
- Monitoring & Review

### Other related Policies & Procedures

- CCSL Infection Control Management Policy & Procedure
- CCSL Infection Prevention & Control – Isolation and barrier nursing
- CCSL Referrals & Admissions Policy
- CCSL Visitors & Visits Policy
- CCSL Testing Policy
- CCSL Training Policy
- CCSL COVID-19 Manager's Information Pack

### What is Coronavirus?

COVID-19 (coronavirus) is an infectious disease which causes respiratory flu-like symptoms ranging from very mild to very severe. The infection originated in China at the end of 2019

and has since spread to other countries initiating a global public health emergency. It is now classed as a pandemic.

## How is Coronavirus Spread?

People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus.

It is understood that the virus moves from person to person in droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. In addition, the virus can survive for a certain amount of time out of the body on surfaces.

People can catch COVID-19 if they breathe in the droplets or touch infected surfaces and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.

## What Are the Symptoms?

The most common symptoms are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. As the virus mutates many more symptoms have become associated with the condition.

COVID-19 is particularly dangerous for people with weakened immune systems, for older people, and for those with long-term conditions such as diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

Updated information and guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

## Information

CCSL will keep up to date with the latest public health and government information about the risk of coronavirus in the UK. The infection control lead for the home will maintain close links with local health protection teams and will be responsible for circulating essential information to staff and residents and their families. They will also update the organisation's management team.

The home will comply fully with official advice, including *Guidance for social or community care and residential settings on COVID-19*, published by Public Health England.

## Travel Restrictions

At present there is a ban on all but essential travel.

Latest travel advice can be found on the GOV.UK web platform at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

CCSL requires staff to comply with any advice given and to inform their line manager wherever the guidance may apply to them.

## Infection Control and Prevention Procedures

This home believes that general adherence to high standards of infection prevention and control is the best way to prevent the person-to-person spread of pathogens such as coronavirus and maximise the safety of staff, service users and visitors. To achieve this the organisation's infection control policies and procedures will be implemented in full, especially those related to effective hand hygiene, sanitisation and environmental cleaning.

Care managers and supervisory staff should make sure that people:

- change into uniform on arrival at the Home and remove uniform on leaving the Home. Uniforms should be washed after each shift and NEVER worn between home and work.
- cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (not their hands) when they cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately
- wash their hands with soap and water often and use hand sanitiser gel (at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water are not available
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- wear PPE as directed
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Staff should comply fully with hand sanitisation policies and procedures. Managers will ensure that policies are supported by the provision of appropriate resources such as hand sanitiser gels.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

Environmental cleaning will be increased while the danger of a pandemic exists. Regular cleaning of frequently-touched hard surfaces with a suitable disinfectant and cleanser will be carried out.

*See CCSL Infection Prevention & Control Isolation and Barrier Nursing document*

## Social Distancing

From July 4<sup>th</sup> the 2m social distancing guidance will change in England.

The Government have said that where it is not possible to stay 2m apart, people should keep a distance of 'one metre plus' – this means staying one metre apart, while observing precautions to reduce risk of transmission:

- Avoid face-to-face seating
- Meet in outdoor areas or well-ventilated areas
- Use protective screens and face coverings
- Continue to wash hands regularly

Vulnerable people, including those aged 70 and over, are being advised to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

This home will ensure that all public health messages relating to staying home and social distancing are passed on to staff, residents and relatives. Residents will stay in the home for the time being and all trips outside are temporarily stopped. Staff and service users should observe social distancing wherever possible when not providing direct personal care and when interacting with each other.

## Staff Health and Self-isolation

Government strategy is to ask people to self-isolate in their homes where they have symptoms of COVID-19 infection or think that they might have the virus.

Staff who are unwell with suspected COVID-19 or who have come into contact with an infected individual or who share a household with someone who is unwell should not come to work but must comply with the latest government advice about self-isolating themselves in their home.

The guidance states that:

- people who have symptoms of infection (new continuous cough and/or high temperature — however mild) and live alone should self-isolate by staying at home and not leaving their house for seven days from when the symptoms started
- those who live with others and one person has symptoms should self-isolate as a household for 14 days from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

## Testing

All frontline social care staff are classified as ‘essential workers’ and are eligible for such tests.

All staff who are self-isolating must inform their line-manager as soon as possible that they will not be in to work. They should book a COVID-19 test within 24hrs of isolating (this can be done online). Only if the employee does not have accessibility to book the test themselves, will CCSL book their test through the employee referral route. Staff must provide test results to their Manager. Please refer to CCSL Testing Policy.

- Staff who are self-isolating must inform their line-manager as soon as possible that they will not be in to work
- Staff who are self-isolating, including those from homes without confirmed COVID-19 cases, must book a COVID-19 test within 24hrs of isolating.

At present, ALL staff must undergo a COVID-19 test. The following applies:

- Those staff members who remain working will be placed onto a schedule for regular testing, arranged by the Home Manager. The employee must provide all information needed for the Manager to refer the employee and attend the selected date and location for testing.

Any potential resident coming from the community via a Social Worker or District Nurse, must produce a negative covid-19 test result before admission is agreed. It is the responsibility of the SW and/or DN to obtain a swab and produce the test result to the Home.

## Residents and Isolation

Where a resident develops the symptoms of COVID-19, they will be isolated in their bedroom in the same way as if they had influenza. Staff should:

- minimise the risk of transmission through safe working procedures and implementation of infection control policies (barrier nursing)
- review of pertinent DOLs and MCA procedures need to be undertaken in line with new PHE powers
- use personal protective equipment (PPE) for activities that bring them into close personal contact, such as washing and bathing, personal hygiene and contact with bodily fluids
- use new PPE for each episode of care
- treat waste as infectious and dispose of it according to the homes hazardous waste policies.

Where required, the home will seek additional advice from the local public health protection teams.

Active “isolation” rooms will be identified with appropriate signage (Red Hand). No member of staff should enter an isolation room without wearing PPE.

## DoLS

### **COVID-19 Testing**

The principles of the Mental Capacity Act are legal requirements and providers may find they form a useful framework for decision-making in demanding circumstances. CCSL will still seek consent on all aspects of care to which the person can still consent.

This will include a COVID-19 test. The following should be sought:

- Consent of resident, and/or
- Consent of Lasting Power of Attorney (Personal welfare)

The resident’s family should be kept informed of all decisions made and in advance of all procedures to be carried out.

The latest guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) explains that the pandemic may lead to changes to the care and treatment of people who lack relevant mental capacity. It explains that where life-saving treatment is being provided in a care home or hospital, including for the treatment of COVID-19, then the person will not be deprived of liberty as long as the treatment is the same as would normally be given to any patient without a mental disorder.

### **DoLS will therefore not apply.**

CCSL will apply the principles set out in the MCA and follow the relevant codes of practice before deciding to apply for a DoLS. Manager’s decisions about applying for a DoLS must be taken specifically for that person and not for groups of people.

### **Resident Isolation**

Imposed isolation (for example, confinement to a room) may not constitute a deprivation of liberty either because it meets the criteria for life saving treatment set out above or because it does not meet the acid test. Managers will consider the MCA and appropriate guidance in deciding what is a deprivation. This type of isolation may be covered for people with an

existing DoLS or other authorisation (e.g. through Court of Protection) for deprivation that was given prior to the COVID-19 emergency.

Managers will consider whether a person with a DoLS may have capacity to consent to isolation even if they lack capacity to consent to other arrangements that gave rise to the need for a DoLS in the first place.

Managers will consider the least restrictive option and avoid depriving someone of their liberty unless it is absolutely necessary. If the reasons for the isolation are solely to prevent harm to others or in relationship to public health, then Public Health Officer powers may be more appropriate than using the Mental Capacity Act.

If proposed or imposed restrictions do not reach the level of depriving someone of their liberty - see the 'acid test' - then the wider provisions of the MCA should be followed if a person lacks capacity to consent to the isolation— following the principles of the MCA best interests process as a matter of priority and ensuring any arrangements are the least restrictive option.

DHSC -The Mental Capacity Act (2005) (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

## Visiting

From 6<sup>th</sup> July homes that have been free from COVID-19 for a minimum of 14 days, will open to family visits. The following additional measure will be in place to ensure that these meetings take place safely:

- Visits will take place in a designated outdoor area
- Visits will need to be pre-booked to enable us to manage the safety of residents and their visitors by limiting the volume of people through the home at any one time, as well as support additional cleaning between visits
- Visits will be limited, initially, to 30 minutes duration
- Only two family members will be allowed per visit and children cannot be allowed at this point in time
- Visitors will be asked some health screening questions at the start of your visit, will be asked to use the sanitising gel provided and will have your temperature taken. ***If you are showing any symptoms which could indicate coronavirus, please do not travel to the care home as we will need to refuse entry.*** As you will be aware, these symptoms include a raised temperature, a new and persistent cough, a loss of taste or smell and a generally feeling lethargic and unwell.
- Visitors will be required to wear a face mask for the duration of their visit. Masks can be provided if you are unable to bring your own.
- Social distancing measures will remain in effect, which means a no touch approach during visits. This extends to hugging, hand-holding or kissing.
- In line with Government guidance, visitors will not be able to use facilities such as refreshments or toilets (unless for emergencies).

Clear guidance on visiting will be circulated to residents and to relatives. Staff will take time to explain the policy to residents and to support them through this difficult period. This

should include giving residents support in using devices such as mobile phones, tablets and computers to stay in touch with family.

Contractors on site should be kept to essential visits only where the safety of residents is impacted, eg boiler breakdown. In such circumstances strict social distancing will be maintained and emergency service personnel asked to comply with all infection control and hand washing guidance.

It is expected that all contractors coming onto site will come with their own infection control & prevention equipment, including hand sanitiser, disposable gloves, apron and facemasks.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In this home staff should use PPE as directed in the following Public Health England guidance.

- [COVID-19 personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- [COVID-19: How to work safely in care homes](#)

Single-use items must be changed between each episode of care. Masks and eye protectors may be used throughout a session until the member of staff takes a break from their duties. Any PPE should be changed if it becomes soiled or damaged.

All staff will be trained in the safe use of PPE. Usage should be monitored by line managers/supervisors. Posters demonstrating PPE requirements and showing how to put PPE on and take it off will be displayed around the home.

In this home the care management will keep the PPE guidelines under review and complete appropriate risk assessments. The home is aware that PHE recommend the general use of PPE during periods of “sustained transmission” of COVID-19 in the community.

The care home manager will make every effort to ensure that adequate stocks of appropriate PPE are maintained and that PPE is readily available for staff to use.

**PPE must be worn, when providing personal care which requires you to be in direct contact with the resident(s) (e.g. touching) OR within 2 metres of a resident who is coughing.**

**The following recommendations apply:**

- whether the resident you are caring for has symptoms or not, and includes all residents including those in the ‘extremely vulnerable’ group and those diagnosed with COVID-19.
- whenever you are within 2 metres of any resident who is coughing, even if you are not providing direct care to them.
- for all direct care, for example: assisting with getting in/out of bed, feeding, dressing, bathing, grooming, toileting, applying dressings etc. and or when unintended contact with residents is likely (e.g. when caring for residents with challenging behaviour).

These recommendations assume that care workers are not undertaking aerosol generating procedures (AGPs).

Recommended PPE items	Explanation
 <b>Disposable gloves</b>	Single use to protect you from contact with resident’s body fluids and secretions.
 <b>Disposable plastic apron</b>	Single use to protect you from contact with resident’s body fluids and secretions.
 <b>Fluid-resistant surgical mask</b>	<p>Fluid-repellent surgical masks can be used continuously while providing care, until you take a break from duties (e.g. to drink, eat, for your break time or end of shift).</p> <p>The mask is worn to protect you, the care worker, and can be used while caring for a number of different residents. You should not touch your face mask unless it is to put it on or remove it.</p> <p>You should remove and dispose of the mask if it becomes damaged, soiled, damp, or uncomfortable to use. You need to use a new mask when you re-start your duties after a break.</p>
<b>Eye protection</b>	<p>Eye protection may be needed for care of some residents where there is risk of droplets or secretions from the resident’s mouth, nose, lungs or from body fluids reaching the eyes (e.g. caring for someone who is repeatedly coughing or who may be vomiting).</p> <p>Use of eye protection should be discussed with your manager and you should have access to eye protection (such as goggles). If you are provided with goggles, then you should be given instructions on how to clean and store them between duties.</p> <p>Eye protection can be used continuously while providing care, until you need to take a break from duties.</p>

**When performing a task requiring you to be within 2 metres of resident(s) but no direct contact with resident(s) (i.e. no touching)**

The following recommendations apply for tasks such as: performing meal rounds, carrying out wellbeing activity, medication rounds, prompting people to take their medicines, preparing food for residents who can feed themselves without assistance, or cleaning close to residents.

**If practical, residents with respiratory symptoms should remain inside their room,** they should be encouraged to follow good respiratory hygiene. If unable to maintain 2 metre distance from a coughing resident then follow recommendations above.

Recommended PPE items	Explanation
✘ Disposable gloves	Not required.
✘ Disposable plastic apron	Not required.
✔ Surgical mask	<p>Surgical masks can be used continuously while providing care, until you take a break from duties (e.g. to drink, eat, take a break from duties at your break time or at end of shift).</p> <p>The mask is worn to protect you, the care worker, and can be used while caring for a number of different residents. You should not touch your face mask unless it is to put it on or remove it.</p> <p>You should remove and dispose of the mask if it becomes damaged, soiled, damp, or uncomfortable to use. You need to use a new mask when you re-start your duties after a break.</p> <p>Note: surgical masks do not need to be fluid repellent for use in this situation. However, if you are already wearing a fluid-repellent surgical mask there is no need to replace it, and if only fluid-repellent surgical masks are available then these may be used.</p> <p>A fluid-resistant surgical mask may be needed where there is high risk from respiratory droplets (e.g. when undertaking prolonged tasks close to residents who are persistently coughing or where it is not certain you can remain 2 metres away from coughing residents).</p> <p>Use of fluid-resistant masks should be discussed with your manager and be informed by a risk assessment in your care home.</p>
<b>Eye protection</b>	<p>Eye protection is not required if you are not within 2 metres of someone with a cough.</p> <p>Eye protection may be needed for care if you cannot maintain a 2 metre distance and is needed for certain tasks where there is risk of droplets or secretions from the resident's mouth, nose, lungs or from body fluids reaching the eyes (e.g. prolonged tasks near residents who are repeatedly coughing or who may be vomiting).</p> <p>Use of eye protection should be discussed with your manager and you should have access to eye protection (such as goggles). If you are provided with goggles, then you should be given instructions on how to clean and store them between visits</p> <p>Eye protection can be used continuously while providing care, until you need to take a break from duties.</p>

**When working in communal areas with residents- no direct contact with resident(s) though potentially within 2 metres of resident(s)**

The following guidance applies for tasks such as: working in dining rooms, lounges, corridors etc. during wellbeing activity.

**If practical, residents with respiratory symptoms should remain inside their room,** they should be encouraged to follow good respiratory hygiene. If unable to maintain 2 metre distance from a coughing resident then follow recommendations above.

Recommended PPE	Explanation
 <b>Disposable gloves</b>	Not required.
 <b>Disposable plastic apron</b>	Not required.
 <b>Surgical mask</b>	<p>Surgical masks can be used continuously while providing care, until you take a break from duties (e.g. to drink, eat, take a break from duties at your break time or at end of shift).</p> <p>The mask is worn to protect you, the care worker, and can be used while caring for a number of different residents. You should not touch your face mask unless it is to put it on or remove it.</p> <p>You should remove and dispose of the mask if it becomes damaged, soiled, damp, or uncomfortable to use. You need to use a new mask when you restart your duties after a break.</p> <p>Note: surgical masks do not need to be fluid repellent for use in this situation. However, if you are already wearing a fluid-repellent surgical mask there is no need to replace it, and if only fluid-repellent surgical masks are available then these may be used.</p> <p>A fluid-resistant surgical mask may be needed where there is high risk from respiratory droplets (e.g. when undertaking prolonged tasks close to residents who are persistently coughing or where it is not certain you can remain 2 metres away from coughing residents).</p> <p>Use of fluid-resistant masks should be discussed with your manager and be informed by a risk assessment in your care home.</p>
 <b>Eye protection</b>	Not required.

Note: PPE is only effective when combined with: hand hygiene (cleaning your hands regularly and appropriately); respiratory hygiene <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/hand-hygiene> and avoiding touching your face with your hands, and following standard infection prevention and control precautions. [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg139](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg139)

## Reporting

The Manager/infection control lead for the home will inform the Managing Director immediately if any member of staff or resident is suspected to be infected with coronavirus or comes into contact with someone suspected to be infected with coronavirus. The Managing Director will liaise with the local health protection team. In such cases the individual who is unwell should call NHS 111 from their mobile, or 999 if an emergency (if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk). A staff member should call on their behalf if the person affected is not able to comply.

This home will comply fully with all existing infection control and prevention guidance, including the *Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice for Health and Adult Social Care on the Prevention and Control of Infections and Related Guidance*.

## Admissions to the Home, including from Hospital

Care managers and supervisory staff should make sure that:

- Any admissions and/or referrals to the homes (private, local authority, hospital, etc.) MUST be accompanied with a valid NEGATIVE COVID-19 test result. All other assessments and risk assessments apply prior to admission being agreed.
- Following CQC regulations, ALL admissions MUST be isolated for a minimum of 14 days, including those who show no symptoms and/or have a negative test result.
- At this time, CCSL homes will not accept any new applicant, who has tested positive with COVID-19. This is to safeguard both our other residents and our staff.
- At this time, CCSL homes will not accept any new applicant into the homes, who is coming from a COVID-19 positive ward, even if they have a negative COVID-19 test result. This is to safeguard both our other residents and our staff.
- emergency discharge to hospital must be the action of last resort and in an emergency situation only. There should be a full understanding of the TEP and DNR position with regard to any residents who may be considered urgent for hospital transfer

It is the responsibility of the SW and/or DN to obtain a swab and produce the negative test result to the Home, before admission is granted.

For current residents who are required to visit or stay in hospital during this time, Managers and supervisory staff ensure that on return, the resident:

- goes into isolation for a minimum of 14 days, even if a negative test result is received.

## Outbreak Planning

In addition to the organisation's prevention and control procedures, each Home will have a specific plan in place, for use should an outbreak occur within their home. This plan should cover the following areas:

- Identification of an 'outbreak'
- Staffing – how to ensure safety, numbers, cover

- Residents with Covid-19 – barrier nursing, wellbeing, communication with families
- Residents non symptomatic – safety, wellbeing, communication with families
- Reporting

## Business Continuity Procedures and Pandemic Recovery Planning

In addition to the CCSL's general business continuity and recovery planning policies, the home recognises the need to have a separate pandemic recovery plan and procedure.

The following procedure sets out contingency measures to be introduced in the event of a coronavirus pandemic:

- A pandemic communications strategy will be developed to ensure that staff, residents and their families are provided with up-to-date and accurate information on the status of the pandemic and on the home's response.
- Every effort will be made to provide the information to residents in a format that they can understand. The home recognises that the current crisis will be upsetting and worrying for residents and relatives.
- Information will be provided to staff via email and through teams where practical and all unnecessary face-to-face meetings will be cancelled — where face-to-face meetings are held social distancing will be observed.
- Training will utilise online e-learning and other electronic forms where possible — any face-to-face training will be conducting conforming to social distancing rules.
- The organisation's leave and absence policies will be continuously reviewed as the status of the pandemic changes, for instance, it may become necessary to cancel leave in case of serious short-staffing.
- Essential staff will be offered "live in" facilities to enable them to stay at the home between shifts and reduce the risk of picking up the virus while travelling to and from the home.
- Staff will be informed of any additional measures to limit the spread of disease in a pandemic situation — this might include:
  - avoiding unnecessary travel
  - cancellation of face-to-face meetings
  - working from home where possible
- As a contingency measure, staff will be cross-trained in various functions to ensure that adequate cover is provided in different roles should sickness rates rise.
- The communications strategy for the home will be reviewed to enable greater use of wi-fi video digital technologies and support virtual contact – this will help to decrease the need for face-to-face contact and enable residents to keep in contact remotely with relatives, remote consultations, etc.
- Staff who perform roles that can be done from home will be encouraged to.

The Management of the home will link with any local resilience forums relevant to health and social care provision.

Line managers and supervisors will be responsible for ensuring that staff understand the organisation’s pandemic recovery plan policy and procedure. Staff should familiarise themselves with the procedure and should speak to their line manager if they have any questions or concerns.

The procedure aims to ensure that the home will be able to continue to provide care to its residents during any pandemic.

## Monitoring and Review

This policy will be continuously monitored and updated to take account of any changes to the official advice provided about Coronavirus.

Signed:	Stuart Clarkson
Date:	26 June
Policy review date:	July 2020

Last reviewed 26 June 2020