



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Hospital visiting during the Coronavirus:

Supplementary Statement

30 November 2020

Hospital Visiting Guidance during Coronavirus – Supplementary Statement

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Purpose

This supplementary statement should be read in conjunction with the [Welsh Government Hospital Visiting Guidance during Coronavirus and annexes issued on 15 July 2020](#), as amended (“the Guidance”). The Guidance was issued to provide a framework for Health Boards, Trusts and providers of hospice care to facilitate visiting within healthcare settings during the pandemic.

Background

When the Guidance was issued it was considered, given the level of Covid-19 transmission in communities across Wales, that national guidance was both appropriate and desirable in order to promote a consistency of approach.

More recently, a changing picture has emerged with significant variations in community transmission across different parts of Wales. We recognise how restrictions on visiting can impact adversely both on patients and their loved ones. The health, safety and wellbeing of patients, communities and health care provider staff remains an absolute priority.

Consequently, the Welsh Government reiterates that **the Guidance sets out the current baseline for visiting in Wales during the pandemic.**

We recognise, however, that providers of health care to which the Guidance applies may:

- (i) in response to **rising levels** of Covid-19 transmission in their localities, including levels which result in a national lockdown, and/or evidence of nosocomial transmission within a particular setting; or
- (ii) **falling levels** of transmission in their local area,

depart from the Guidance.

Further guidance on such departure is provided below, but all decisions to depart from the Guidance should be made by the Health Board, Trust or Hospice’s Executive Team with their own infection prevention and control teams in collaboration with Public Health Wales. Engaging with Public Health Wales to inform local decisions provides a collective reassurance that there is a consistent approach when taking decisions to impose visiting restrictions, which go beyond those set out in the Guidance or indeed when relaxing the principles in the Guidance.

Decision making in collaboration with Public Health Wales is also a feature of the [updated guidance on care home visiting](#) that was issued on 23 September.