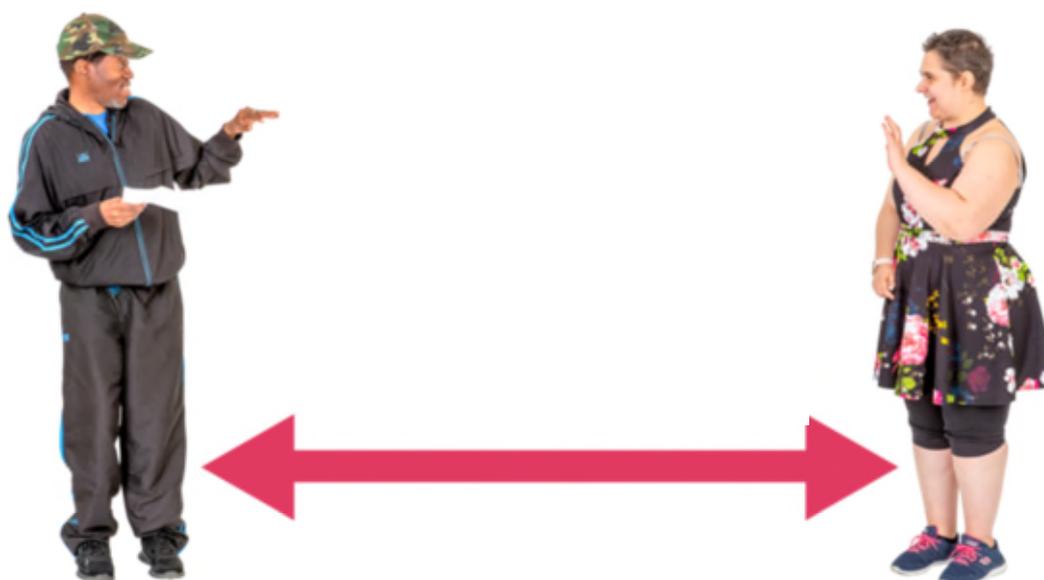




What you need to know about visiting a hospital or care home in Northern Ireland at the moment





What is in this booklet

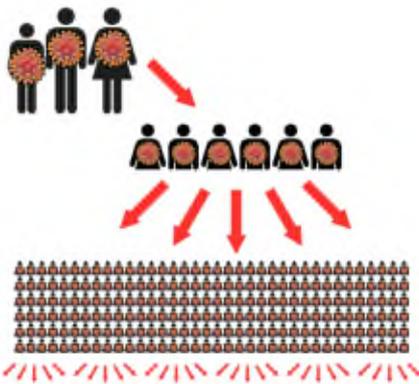
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What is Covid-19?

Covid-19 is an illness that many people in the world are getting.

It is easy to spread Covid-19 to other people.

Lots of people also call it coronavirus.



Some people can get very ill from Covid-19.

That is why we need to keep people safe.



About this booklet

This booklet is about visiting these places during Covid-19:



- Hospitals.

This includes hospitals for people with a learning disability, people with mental health conditions and children



- Care Homes

- Hospices. They are like care homes for people who are very ill



- Maternity units. They are places where babies are born



This booklet also tells you about going with someone to a day appointment at hospital.

Or taking them for emergency care.



This booklet tells you what we all must do to keep everyone safe.

It tells you the rules at the moment.

The rules may change if Covid-19 gets worse or better.

Or there may be different rules for different places.

Can people visit hospitals and care homes at the moment?



Yes they can.

But visiting hospitals and care homes has changed to help keep everyone safe.



This means sometimes it is ok to visit and sometimes it is best not to.

It is important that you make an appointment to visit.



The rules about visiting hospitals and care homes at the moment

The rules may change if they need to.



Rule 1

The safest way to speak to someone in a hospital or a care home is by phone. You can also make video calls on the internet.

Rule 2

No one should visit a hospital or care home if they are ill or may have Covid-19.



You may have Covid-19 if you:

- Have a high temperature
- Have a new cough where you keep coughing a lot
- Can't smell or taste things like before



Rule 3

People should try not to visit if they have been told to stay at home.

For example, because they are older or have an illness.



Rule 4

Most people must wear a face mask if they visit a hospital or care home.

Face masks help make things safer for everyone.

People must get their own face mask to wear.

Rule 5



Too many people cannot visit a hospital or care home at once.

But some people might need someone to support them when they visit.

Staff will let the person who supports them come as well if it is safe.

Rule 6



People might only be able to visit for a short time.

If you want to visit you have to make an appointment.

You cannot just turn up.



Rule 7

Only 1 person can visit a hospital or care home at a time.

This is to stop too many people coming to visit.



People living in a care home should talk to staff about who they want to visit.

Sometimes only one person will be able to visit.

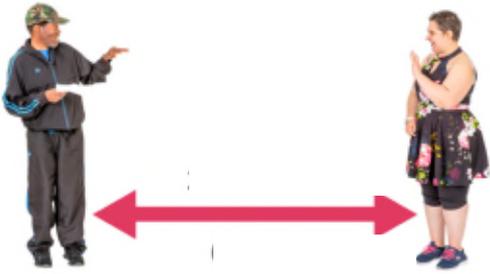
Someone can choose for the person if the person cannot choose for themselves



Rule 8

Children under 16 years old cannot visit people in hospitals.

Rule 9



People should stay a bit away from the person they are visiting.

This means they cannot usually touch or hug the person they are visiting.

This is to keep everyone safe.



People should also stay a bit away from staff and other people in the hospital or care home.

They should stay with the person they are visiting.

They should not move around the hospital or care home too much.

Rule 10



People who visit a hospital or care home must wash their hands when they enter and leave the hospital or care home.

And when they enter and leave the area where the visit happens.



Rule 11

People who visit hospitals should not bring flowers and other things with them.

They should only bring things that the person really needs.

Other information about visiting hospitals and care homes



The rules may change if Covid-19 gets worse or better.

For example, if Covid-19 gets worse people may have to stop visiting for a while.



Or they may only be able to visit at certain times.

For example, if the person they want to see might die soon. Or if the person cannot speak to staff.



Someone at the hospital or care home will tell you if there are different rules

If the hospital or care home says that no one can visit at the moment



The hospital or care home must see if there is a safe way for people to visit.

If the hospital or care home think it is not safe to visit they might have to stop visits.



They must tell people why it is not ok to visit.

They must try to offer other ways to contact the person being cared for.



Visits from religious people called chaplains

This includes ministers, priests and pastors.



These people work with the hospitals and care homes.

It's ok for them to visit when it is safe. But they must make an appointment.



Care homes

It is safer to visit someone outside in the garden. Or indoors in a special room.

Not in the person's room.



Sometimes there are rules about how many people can visit together outside.

People can only visit outside if it is safe.

And if they can sit outside away from each other.

Family or carers



One person can go with the person who needs care.

But only if the person cannot understand or speak to staff on their own.

Maternity places in hospital where people give birth



The person who is pregnant can have someone with them for some of their scans and other care.

But this might change if Covid-19 gets worse.



Sometimes the person giving birth might only be able to have someone with them when they go into labour.

And for a short time after they give birth.