Recommendations for safe visiting in care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic

Is the care home subject to local lockdown as advised by local health protection team (LHPT)?
- Yes
- No

Is there a safe visiting protocol in place that includes:
- Visitors provide contact tracing information on entry and exit (any unintended contacts [15 mins within two metres face-to-face] whilst visiting)
- Weekly testing for care staff from local provider and feedback on results
- Minimum monthly testing and timely results feedback for residents
- Weekly testing for designated family members and timely feedback of results (essential/key visitors)
- Correct use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), zoning and infection control precautions
- Booked appointment schedule for visiting
- Agreed risk assessments
- Family support and information

Are local lockdown/restrictions under review, updates regularly shared with families as well as alternative ways to keep in touch
- Yes
- No

Provide weekly updates on safe visiting procedures and share with families. Advise families when and how visiting is possible and how to stay in touch when visiting is not possible

Are any of the residents in their last days or hours of life?
- Yes
- No

Follow agreed local compassionate visiting and communication at the end of life protocol

Develop local visiting plan from LHPT and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) guidance to enable safe visiting when restrictions are lifted

Has local safe- visiting protocol been agreed between LHPT/ CCG and care home?
- Yes
- No

Design safe visiting protocol

Is there agreement on correct PPE use, testing and a system for managing safe visiting including agreed risk assessment and appointments that families agree to?
- Yes
- No

Safe visiting will include:
- Infection control precautions e.g. hand washing/ sanitising, face masks/coverings, visors, gloves and aprons and check list protocol, collection of contact tracing information

Safe visiting may include:
- In room, through a screen, visiting lounges/pods, garden, window, drive through visits

If visiting is not possible - agree with family:
1. What and how care will stay the same (e.g. despite infection control precautions)
2. What and how care will be different (e.g. because of infection control precautions)
3. If there is a deterioration, what and how will information and decisions be made (e.g. end of life, symptoms)
4. Confirm emergency numbers and lasting power of attorney (health and welfare) documents

If visiting is possible:
- Provide weekly updates for families around safe visiting
- Safe visiting with regular monitoring and support for families should go ahead. Ensure Covid-free new admissions to home
- Continue in-home testing and take action as per agreed local policy in the event of a positive test
- Provide weekly updates for families around safe visiting