

## The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust Visiting Arrangements

Please note, there may be occasions due to patient safety or clinical need, where we may need to suspend visiting in the future.

### Current Face Mask Wearing Guidance – as of February 28<sup>th</sup> 2023

- Patients and visitors attending appointments at The Dudley Group NHS Trust are no longer required to wear a face mask unless they have experiencing respiratory symptoms such as coughing and sneezing.
- If attending the Emergency Department or Urgent Care Centre with symptoms of a respiratory tract infection, such as coughing and sneezing, we request that you wear a mask if you are able to.
- Patients who are clinically extremely vulnerable, such as immunosuppressed, will be encouraged to continue to wear a mask (if you are able) for both inpatient and outpatient visits to protect themselves.
- Visitors attending clinically extremely vulnerable or respiratory patients should wear a mask to protect themselves and others.
- If it is your personal preference to wear a mask, they will remain available for you - please do not hesitate to ask.

### Please refrain from visiting a relative/friend in the hospital if you have:

- Any signs and symptoms of a cold (fever, runny nose, cough, headache)
- A current positive COVID-19 test
- Diarrhoea and vomiting

Points of Note for Visitors
Children under the age of 12 are not permitted to visit, unless indicated otherwise below.
Children of school age are discouraged from visiting inpatients during school hours.
Visitors must sanitise their hands on entry and leaving ward/department areas. Hand gel is provided at all points of entry/exit.
Visitors must wear any personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, aprons), if required, as directed by hospital staff.
Visitors are requested to use visitor chairs provided and avoid sitting on patient beds.
<b>Two visitors</b> are allowed to visit at the same time, unless indicated otherwise below. This is to prevent overcrowding of the clinical area and minimise disruption for other patients.

Ward/Dept	Visiting Time
<b>General Wards</b>	<b>11:00 – 19:00, every day</b>
<b>Paediatrics (C2)</b>	<p>Parents/Carers can visit at any time during the day. One parent may stay over-night.</p> <p>For siblings and other adults (18 years plus) visiting times are 10:00 – 12:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 every day.</p> <p>There may be exceptional circumstances where visiting may be increased or restricted.</p>
<b>Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU – part of C2)</b>	1 parent/carer per child due to limited assessment unit space
<b>Neonatal Unit</b>	<p>Parents have 24-hour open access, however going home to rest at night is advised.</p> <p>Siblings can visit at any time, unless at school.</p> <p>Four agreed nominated persons for visiting will be identified at admission.</p> <p>Two persons per cot side at any time, one must be a parent.</p>
<b>Maternity Ward</b>	<p>Partners may visit every day 09:00 - 22:00.</p> <p>2 other visitors may visit every day between 15:00 – 16:30 and 19:00 – 20:00.</p>
<b>Critical Care</b>	11:00 – 19:00, every day
<b>Coronary Care</b>	11:00 – 19:00, every day
<b>Medical Enhanced Care Unit</b>	11:00 – 19:00, every day
<p><b>Day Case areas:</b>  <b>e.g.</b>            Endoscopy Unit            Renal Unit            Surgical Day Case            Medical Day Case            Cardiac Day Case            C4 Oncology Day Case            Surgery Minor            Procedures Room</p>	<p>There are no visiting times for patients who are in day case facilities. One carer/friend may bring a patient to their appointment and collect them afterwards.</p> <p>However, if the patient has, for example, dementia, a learning disability or autism and requires familiar carers to assist with care delivery, speak to the day case area nursing lead to discuss this further.</p>
<b>Special Circumstances</b>	

Visitors may be able to visit outside of the 11:00 - 19:00 visiting times. This **must** be agreed with ward staff in advance. Examples of where special circumstances may apply:

- Patients aged 16-18 who, due to their clinical condition or personal choice, are housed on an adult ward
- Deteriorating and end of life patients
- Patients with dementia, a learning disability or autism who may need familiar carers to assist with care delivery
- Visits from carers who usually provide care at patient's home
- Assisting patients with eating and drinking at mealtimes
- Spiritual/religious support from external chaplaincy teams
- In exceptional circumstances, and with the appropriate support, permission may be given for children to visit. Speak to ward/department nursing staff to discuss this.