

Visitor guidance during the COVID-19 outbreak

Affective from 18 March 2020 Version1

From 6am on Wednesday 18 March 2020, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust are asking the public to limit visiting and to consider other ways of keeping in touch, like phone calls, FaceTime and Skype.

To minimise risk we are asking that visitors must be immediate family members or carers. We are asking that the public not visit any health and care settings, and this applies to all inpatient, diagnostic, outpatient and emergency care areas, if they are:

- unwell, especially if they have a high temperature or a new, persistent cough
- vulnerable as a result of their medication, a chronic illness or they are over 70 years of age.

Following guidance from NHS England, visitors should be limited to one per patient unless:

- the patient is receiving end-of-life care
- the visitor needs to be accompanied – accompanying visitors should not stay in patient, ward or communal areas, and this applies to inpatient and outpatient settings
- they are a partner and birthing partner accompanying a woman in labour.

We ask that no children under 12 visits without prior permission from the ward sister or charge nurse.

Due to these unprecedented times, and to minimise the risk to our patients and staff, and following guidance from NHS England we are restrict visiting to one hour per day from 2:30pm to 3:30pm in our hospitals and other health and care settings.

Slightly different rules apply to Paediatrics and Neonates, where two visitors are allowed and this may include a child under 12.

We appreciate this is a very troubling time for everyone, and so we ask for the public's help in respecting these rules which keep our patients and staff safe.