



Wolverhampton
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By email

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Covid-19 Update from Sally Roberts, Chief Nursing Officer and STP Board Nurse for Black Country and West Birmingham CCGs and David Watts, Director of Adult Services, City of Wolverhampton Council.

Dear Provider

We wanted to write to you to thank you for your continued support in the Wolverhampton fight against Covid-19, the Wolverhampton system is reliant on our care providers to maintain the health and wellbeing of those in your care and provide support and care for those who are symptomatic or have been.

Over the last week we have had a number of queries and concerns from providers about admitting new people to their service or taking returning people back following an admission to New Cross or another acute hospital in the region. We are keen to support you with this as we understand you are genuinely concerned about outbreaks in your setting and protecting staff who are visiting people in their own homes too.

New guidance was published on 02 April providing further guidance on the admission and care of residents during Covid-19 into care homes. The guidance can found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877797/covid-19-care-homes-guidance.pdf

The guidance states:

'We also need care homes to continue to make their full capacity available to support the national effort, both in terms of beds and their skilled care staff. Helping to move patients who no longer require acute care into the most appropriate setting will help to save thousands of lives. We thank you for your continued actions to support the implementation of the hospital discharge guidance COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements'.

In light of this new guidance we are working closely with the Royal Wolverhampton Trust to support the optimum flow of patients, enabling swift treatment for those requiring acute care. Equally important is the discharge process for residents going into care homes.

In line with the new guidance, RWT will support care providers through the discharge process by advising you of ongoing care requirements for your residents as they are discharged.



RWT will only be discharging patients when the person:

- is recovered from symptoms i.e. feels better
- has not had a temperature for at least 2 days
- swab taken at least 7 days ago
- is not immunocompromised (for these patients RWT will undertake a specific personalised risk assessment)

People will be moved when possible to a recovery area within the hospital before transferring to a care setting which will hopefully give staff additional assurance. The Infection Prevention team are now sharing an office with the capacity and discharge teams so are working on each individual case to ensure appropriate discharge.

Residents may require further periods of isolation, which will be advised as part of the discharge summary.

We want to support you to continue to receive admissions and accept residents back to their original setting, current guidance can be found on the CWC website. We will also download this guide on your Care Homes App.

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-guidance-social-care-providers>

If you are unsure or don't have the capacity for returning residents due to increased needs or the requirement of 1:1 care for example, please contact us for support and we will do what we can to meet that need.

Please, in the event of an emergency, contact us, and we will do what we can to help.

Yours sincerely



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STP Board Nurse for Black Country
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David Watts, Director of Adult Services
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