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Dear Parents/Relatives,

**Re: Beeches Visiting Policy UPDATE #3**

Previously we had written to you to when visiting was restricted in September 2020 and advised you of new visiting procedures that were to keep residents, staff, and visitors safe.

These restrictions (1 visitor per week per resident for 1 hour) have remained in place since this date.

On **30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**, the Department of Health issued new guidance for visiting to care homes. <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/Covid-19-visiting-guidance> .

Based on this new guidance the following changes to our visiting procedures will be implemented effective **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021**:

- **All residents will be entitled to 2 visits per week.**
- **2 visitors per visit.**
- **Children may visit as well. Other visitor will be responsible for ensuring they adhere to IPC measures and children will be included in total visitor number.**
- **Visits to last for 1 hour.**
- **You must still book visits in advance and all other social distancing and infection control measures (PPE) will still be in effect.**

Additionally, the Department has provided some guidance for residents going on outings with relatives.

- **Residents will be entitled to leave for up to 2 hours, twice a week.**
- **Trips out must be arranged in advance with the home management.**
- **All current community restrictions regarding social distancing and infection control measure must be followed.**

If you wish to take you relative out, please contact the home manager to discuss your request.

These changes are merely the first stage in a planned “Roadmap” toward normalised (pre-COVID) visiting arrangements. I would encourage you all to download and read the plan on the department website.

The Department of Health will carry out a regular 3 weekly review of progress before authorising any move to the next stage in the roadmap. We will keep you updated as soon as we have any further information.

Please bear in mind that while a return to normal visiting is the goal if there is another increase in transmission rates this progress may be stalled or reversed. We would encourage you to continue to follow all social distancing and infection control measures.

As always, we remain open to discussing any concerns you may have regarding visiting arrangement and your personal circumstances.

Thank you all for your continuing patience, cooperation, and support.

Kind regards,



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**James Wilson**

Director

The Beeches