

Discharges from Hospital to Residential/Nursing Care Homes

It is the responsibility of the Trust to inform the care home of any COVID related issues for service users being discharged to care homes. This includes service users being admitted to the care home for the first time.

It is not necessary for a service user to have a negative test result before being discharged to a care home. If a patient has been managed as a suspected COVID case or has been in contact with confirmed or suspected cases in a healthcare setting, the following actions should be followed.

Service user being transferred is a confirmed or possible case of COVID

1. If there are no other cases in the home

Service user to complete the 7 day isolation period following onset of symptoms in the care home if not completed in the hospital setting. Staff to adhere to strict infection prevention and control precautions and full PPE including fluid resistant face mask to be worn when in contact with the service user.

If unable to isolate the case completely, residents who have contact with the case within the home should complete 14 day isolation (cohort approach)

2. If there are other case/s in the home

Case to complete the 7 day isolation period from the onset of symptoms in the care home if not completed in the hospital setting.

Staff to adhere to strict infection prevention and control precautions and full PPE including fluid resistant face mask to be worn when in contact with the service user.

Contacts who are already in isolation (as part of the management of the cases within the home) do not need to extend their isolation period.

Exposed service user who has been in a bay with COVID cases while in hospital

Isolate on return to care home (for remainder of 14 day period).

Staff to adhere to strict infection prevention and control precautions and full PPE including fluid resistant face mask to be worn when in contact with the service user.

Non-COVID service user being discharged from hospital to a home with COVID cases

1. If they were admitted to hospital after the start of the COVID outbreak and were in 14 day isolation in the home as a contact of a case. Complete the remainder of the isolation period on return to the care home. Staff to adhere to strict infection prevention and control precautions and full PPE including fluid resistant face mask to be worn when in contact with the service user.
2. If they were admitted to hospital before the start of COVID outbreak in the care home, isolate on return to the care home for 14 days. Staff to adhere to strict infection prevention and control precautions and full PPE including fluid resistant face mask to be worn when in contact with the service user.