
We have introduced new visiting restrictions in our hospitals due to the high number of Covid-19 infections in the community.

To keep everyone safe, we can only allow visitors in exceptional circumstances, including:

- visiting a child
- visiting a patient at the end of their life
- as a birth partner
- as a carer

Before coming to visit a patient in hospital in exceptional circumstances, please contact the ward or unit to confirm you are able to visit. In areas or wards where there have been several cases of Covid-19, greater restrictions may be in place.

Every patient has different needs and we know there are occasions where we need to adapt our visiting policy. Please speak to your patients' care team to discuss the best approach.

Birth partners

One named support person can attend maternity appointments and ultrasound scans. Women can have a named birth partner with them for the duration of their

labour, including if they need to be induced. Find out more on our website at: www.imperial.nhs.uk/our-services/maternity-and-obstetrics

Carers

Carers are welcome to come to hospital to support patients' health and social needs. A familiar carer or supporter is not considered a visitor. We can provide carers with a carers' passport so that each patient's main carer can be identified easily.

Accompanying someone to a hospital appointment or to A&E

Visitors are not currently allowed to come to outpatient appointments or A&E apart from in exceptional circumstances such as:

- where a patient has a regular carer who needs to come to hospital to support their health and social needs – particularly dementia, learning disabilities or autism
- children (anyone under 16) who need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian

If you are coming into hospital in exceptional circumstances, you must:

- wear a face mask at all times. Masks are provided at the entrances to our hospitals
- use hand sanitiser or wash your hands as you enter the hospital and when entering or leaving wards, clinics and units
- maintain a safe distance from others
- follow any one-way route signs

These safety measures apply even if you have had the Covid-19 vaccinations and booster.

Safety measures for visitors to hospital

If you are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19, please do not come to hospital.

We advise all visitors to take a lateral flow or PCR test before coming into hospital and to only come in if the test is negative and you have no symptoms.

You can order a free supply of lateral flow tests from the government website or call 119.

Keeping in touch with patients in hospital

We know how difficult it is to be separated from friends and family and we will do everything we can to help you stay in touch with your loved ones. We are regularly reviewing our visiting policies and hope to be able to allow more visitors into hospital when it is safe to do so. Find out more on our website:

www.imperial.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors

How do I make a comment about my visit?

Please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (PALS) on 020 3312 7777 (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email imperial.pals@nhs.net

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email imperial.communications@nhs.net

Visitor guidance

Visiting our hospitals during Covid-19