**Safe Visiting on the In-Patient Unit (IPU)**

**VISITORS GUIDE**

**Prior to visiting IPU:**

Ask about visiting restrictions and how they apply to you and your family:

* + If the person you are visiting is not approaching end of life, then 2 key people can be identified as visitors and only these 2 can visit. These 2 people can be changed at any point.
  + If the person you are visiting is approaching end of life - only 2 visitors may be at the patient’s bedside at a time. These 2 may vary between several different family members / close friends.
  + Please discuss your visiting requirements with the IPU staff.
* Be aware of the risk of Covid-19 to yourself or family members. Ensure you discuss these with the staff caring for your loved one and you fully understand.
* Avoid using public transport if you can.
* Keep to a minimum the personal belongings you bring with you eg bags, electronic devices.
* Have a drink prior to visiting to avoid moving around the unit too much and to keep hydrated. You will be able to make drinks and have something to eat when you are on the unit.
* Sanitise your hands on entering the hospice. Then, before entering the unit, wash or sanitise your hands and put on one of the face masks made available for you on the table outside the unit on the first floor, even if you have worn one of your own to travel to the hospice.
* Do not visit if you or anyone from your house are unwell or displaying any symptoms of the Coronavirus or are clinically vulnerable, such as currently having cancer treatments.

**On arrival on the In-Patient Unit:**

* Remove your outer coat. Wear short sleeves or roll up your sleeves so your arms are bare below elbow.
* Staff will provide the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you need to wear; this may include surgical mask, apron, gloves, visor. And they will show you how to safely put this on and remove it / dispose of it.

**During your Visit on the In-Patient Unit:**

* Please stay with your loved one and avoid unnecessary moving around IPU - staff will show you how to use the call bell for any support/assistance you might need
* Change your mask after wearing it for about 4 hours, or sooner if it starts to feel damp.

**On leaving the In-Patient Unit:**

* Ward staff will inform you how to remove your apron, gloves, mask and visor and dispose of these.
* Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 40 seconds prior to leaving.

**We will tell you if the COVID status of the In-Patient Unit changes. Please let us know if your situation changes too, such as developing symptoms, testing positive, being contacted by Test and Trace or finding out you have been in touch with someone who has tested positive.**