

**St Mary’s Hospice In-Patient Unit Visiting Policy**

**COVID – 19 Coronovirus update 20th July 2021**

**To minimise infection risks due to COVID-19 and in the interest of the welfare of patients, staff, volunteers and visitors, we are upholding some restrictions to visiting on our In-Patient Unit.**

**Visiting is limited to a bubble of six people for each patient. This bubble is agreed by the patient and those important to them at the time of admission and remains unchanged for the duration of the patient stay. A maximum of 2 visitors will be allowed to visit each day, unless the patient is here for end of life care, in which case, the bubble of 6 can visit, but only 2 are permitted in the patient room at any one time (family room available on request).**

**All visitors will be required to book in for their scheduled visit and must produce a valid registered covid lateral flow test result prior to entering the In-Patient Unit. Lateral flow test kits can be provided where needed. Visitors are still required to wear a face mask and PPE during their visit. These are provided by the hospice at the time of your visit.**

* **The person(s) visiting should stay on the In-Patient Unit for the length of their visit and not go in and out during the day.**
* **Meals can be provided by the hospice for a minimal charge. There is also a Family/Friends kitchen where drinks and food can be prepared.**
* **If you have or develop symptoms of COVID-19 (persistent cough or high temperature, loss of taste or smell) please DO NOT visit the In-Patient unit. Phone the Nurse-in-Charge for advice.**
* **Staff will continue to wear a face mask and other PPE when providing care. This is still an essential procedure during this time.**
* **You might want to consider alternative ways that you can all communicate, such as use of Facetime, Google Duo, Skype etc. We have iPads and we will do all we can to help patients effectively communicate with their family and friends.**
* **If at any point the patient you are visiting has a positive Covid result, you may be asked to self-isolate. This is a Government requirement and may be in retrospect of the visit.**
* **If you have any questions, please do ask us.**

**Thank you for your support with these measures.**