



St. James's Hospital HOPE Directorate

Advice on visiting restrictions on Donal Hollywood Ward

In order to protect you and everyone admitted to Donal Hollywood ward and to prevent an outbreak of Covid-19 on the ward, visiting restrictions will remain in place.

We acknowledge that these visiting restrictions are difficult for patients, their family and friends. However, the effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccine may be lower in those who are immunosuppressed (reduced immune system), including people with cancer. Many patients in Donal Hollywood ward are highly immunosuppressed and **will have little or no immunity from the vaccine.**

We are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of all patients and have put many measures in place to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission and visiting restrictions are one of these measures.

Visiting can only take place on the ward if it is deemed **essential**. There are strict criteria for essential visiting. Please talk to the nurse manager on duty to see if you or your relative meet any of these criteria. Visiting is subject to the hospital's ability to facilitate safe visiting.

- All visitors must be fully vaccinated.
- Visiting is limited in frequency and visitor numbers
- All visitors must complete the Health Check Questionnaire.

This does not apply to patients who have had a sudden deterioration or patients that are end of life. The nurse manager will contact your relatives and arrange a timely visit.

We are currently looking at other options to allow patients to have a social visit at the weekend. Please read the attached information about visiting the hospital and on staying in touch with your family and friends.

We thank you for your understanding and your support in reducing the spread of Covid-19 which allows Donal Hollywood ward to continue to be able to treat and care for patients safely.

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