

## Acorns Covid Roadmap

### Version 5.

Subject to revision – created May 2021

Latest revision July 2021

Emerging from the pandemic, Acorns will adopt a pragmatic approach to removing our current Covid secure practices. We must safeguard all people using or working in the hospices from potential Covid -19 infection as the virus remains in the population and still poses a risk to us. We will follow and implement NHS and PHE guidance as it is produced.

It is important to understand that the government's roadmap is for the general population of England and not specifically for hospital or healthcare settings. Transmission-based precautions need to remain in place not only to prevent Covid infection but also sensibly, to prevent other transmissible illness. Therefore, our Covid secure measures may be in place at Acorns for many more months after the lifting of government restrictions.

## Government Roadmap Step 4

### Guidance

### COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 (Summary)

Published 22 February 2021

#### Review of social distancing

Before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home – which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.

#### Step 4

##### Social contact

In step 4 the government removes all legal limits on social contact.

##### Business, activities and events

Will reopen, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that apply in Step 3. This will be subject to the results of a scientific Events Research Programme to test the outcome of certain pilot events through the spring and summer, where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection. As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. We must carry on with 'hands,

face, space'. Comply with the COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Meet outdoors when we can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when needed. Get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.

<b>In House Hospice Care Clinical Step 4</b>	<b>Outreach Community Setting Clinical/Social Care Step 4</b>	<b>Family Team Community Setting <u>Non-Clinical Support</u> Step 4</b>
<p><b>Hospices</b> - Acorns is a healthcare environment caring for vulnerable people. The Government's roadmap to remove all legal limits on social contact applies to general society</p> <p><b>Testing</b> – lateral flow and PCR testing of staff, volunteers, families, children, and visitors will continue until advised by NHS Test and Trace or PHE.</p> <p><b>Children being admitted for a regular overnight stay</b> – Children being admitted for an overnight stay must have a negative PCR test within 3 days of the stay and extra attention must be taken to protect the child and family members from Covid infection prior to admission. Family members will be pre-screened, and LFD tested on admission.</p> <p><b>Screening</b> – pre-admission screening of all children, families and visitors will continue. Staff and volunteers will continue to self-monitor their health status and report illness prior to commencing work.</p>	<p><b>Community Clinical Care</b> - Providing clinical care in a community setting must be treated the same as in the hospice.</p> <p><b>Testing</b> – lateral flow and PCR testing of staff and volunteers will continue until advised by NHS Test and Trace or PHE.</p> <p><b>Screening</b> - Pre-visit screening must take place before any community visit takes place. Staff and volunteers will continue to self-monitor their health status and report illness prior to commencing work.</p> <p><b>PPE use when providing clinical care</b> – the use of PPE will continue using the current NHS risk assessment adopted by Acorns. General use of FRII Masks, aprons and gloves for low risk care will continue. NHS/Government advice has not changed (reviewed CR 19/05/21). Staff must ensure that they carry a stock of masks and hand sanitiser, wipes, paper towel and bin bags in their vehicle to ensure that they can change masks frequently and clean their hands,</p>	<p><b>Working from Home</b> – the Family Team should continue to work from home where possible only attending the hospices when planned or required.</p> <p><b>Testing</b> – lateral flow and PCR testing of staff and volunteers will continue until advised by NHS Test and Trace or PHE.</p> <p><b>Community Non-Clinical Visits</b> – home visiting to provide psychosocial support may recommence if felt more beneficial than video calling.</p> <p><b>Screening</b> - Pre-visit screening must take place before any community visit takes place. Staff and volunteers will continue to self-monitor their health status and report illness prior to commencing work</p> <p><b>PPE use in the community setting when NOT providing clinical care</b> – Staff visiting families in their homes for non-care meetings should continue to use FRII masks and maintain social distance. Staff must ensure that they carry a stock of masks and hand sanitiser, wipes, paper towel and bin bags in their vehicle to ensure that they can change masks</p>

**Children and families attending Day Services and Other Visitors**

Children attending day care services (inclusive of therapeutic services) will need to be comply with current screening processes of the hospices prior to admission this will include Lateral Flow Test. Access to the hospice may be limited to an identified zoned area.

Family visitors are allowed with no restriction of numbers other than for the safe operation of the hospice. All visitors must be screened and have a negative daily Lateral Flow test before attending the visit (allowing for the current exceptions).

Visitors must wear masks when inside the hospice however, they may remove their masks if they are solely caring for their own child(ren) in a separate room/child’s bedrooms with household members but must reapply masks when interacting with hospice staff. Masks may be removed outside but worn when interacting with staff closer than 2 metres.

Non-family visitors/contractors are allowed but must be screened and have negative daily lateral flow tests before attending the visit and wear masks in the building, maintaining social distance of 1 metre+.

disposing of waste in a safe manner via offensive waste – Tiger bags Orange /black.

**Staff/Volunteer Masks** can be removed in a community clinical or social care setting if:

- not providing clinical care and a 2-metre distance is maintained with others, in a well-ventilated space
- outside and maintaining a 1 metre + distance from others
- eating and drinking and maintaining a 2-metre distance

**Social distancing** - All care staff and other care workers including care volunteers must maintain social/physical distancing of 2 metres where possible (unless providing clinical or personal care and wearing PPE as per Covid care pathway). Family members must wear face coverings if assisting Acorns staff with care in the home or if interacting with staff closer than 2 metres indoors or 1 metre + outdoors.

**Transmission Based Precautions** - Frequent hand washing and hand sanitising must be continued in all community settings. Masks should be changed after each visit. Hugging and compassionate touch are allowed in comforting and reassuring children and distressed family members. Enable ventilation in work areas preferably with fresh air from outside.

frequently and clean their hands, disposing of waste in a safe manner via domestic waste.

**Social Distancing Non-Clinical Setting** – Staff must maintain a 1 metre + distance in a well-ventilated internal space or outdoors. If outdoors and distanced further than 1 metre + masks can be removed. Masks can be removed if eating or drinking whilst maintaining a 1 metre + distance with others. This is different from the clinical care setting requiring 2 metre distance.

**Transmission Based Precautions** - Frequent hand washing and hand sanitising must be continued in all community settings. Masks should be changed after each visit. Hugging and compassionate touch should be avoided unless wholly necessary on compassionate grounds.

**Work Wear** - Clothing should be changed and laundered after work and a fresh clean clothing worn on each workday.

**Reporting Non-Compliance** – non- compliance with the rules must be acted upon by the Nurse in Charge / manager on duty or out of hours. Non-compliance must be recorded as an incident using the Vantage System. Non-compliance by family members may result in services not being delivered.

<p>Masks, hand sanitiser, hand washing facilities must be made freely available to everyone.</p> <p><b>Reporting Non- Compliance</b> – non- compliance with the rules must be acted upon by the Nurse in Charge / manager on duty or out of hours. Non-compliance must be recorded as an incident using the Vantage System. Non-compliance by family members or visitors may result in services not being delivered or the visit being ended</p> <p><b>PPE use when providing clinical care</b> – the use of PPE will continue using the current NHS risk assessment adopted by Acorns. NHS/Government advice has not changed (reviewed CR 19/05/21).</p> <p><b>Staff/ Volunteers - Masks</b> can be removed in the hospice setting if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not providing clinical care and a 2-metre distance is maintained with others, <u>in a well-ventilated space</u></li> <li>• when working behind a screen or in a private space</li> <li>• outside and maintaining a 1 metre + distance from others</li> <li>• eating and drinking and maintaining a 2-metre distance</li> </ul> <p><b>Social distancing</b> - All staff and other care workers including care volunteers must maintain social/physical distancing of 2 metres</p>	<p><b>Uniforms</b> - Work wear – uniform or own clothes should be changed and laundered after work and fresh clean clothing worn on each workday. The mandatory use of uniforms will cease on a date agreed by management.</p> <p><b>Reporting Non- Compliance</b> – non- compliance with the rules must be acted upon by the Nurse in Charge / manager on duty or out of hours. Non-compliance must be recorded as an incident using the Vantage System. Non-compliance by family members may result in services not being delivered</p>	
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where possible (unless providing clinical or personal care and wearing PPE as per Covid care pathway).

**Transmission Based Precautions** - Frequent hand washing and hand sanitising must be continued in the hospices. Masks should be changed frequently. Hugging and compassionate touch are allowed in comforting and reassuring children and distressed family members. Enable ventilation in work areas preferably with fresh air from outside.

**Uniforms** - Work wear – uniform or own clothes should be changed and laundered after work and fresh clean clothing worn on each workday. The mandatory use of uniforms in the hospice care setting will cease on a date agreed by management.

**Building use by non-care staff** - Meeting rooms in the hospices will become bookable for non-care staff. Restrictions on room capacity will still apply. The rules above regarding mask wearing also apply.