

St Michael's House

Requirements for Safe Visits July 2020

We are glad to announce that visits with service users in St. Michael's House are permitted under the Governments Updated plan. We know how important it is for service users to see their family and friends and we have updated our guidance below in line with the HSE guidance on visitations from 29th July 2020.

Public Health Requirements for Safe Visiting.

- ✓ Social distancing applies for all visits in all locations. There is information available if social distancing cannot be adhered to- please ask the person in charge.
- ✓ Visits must be scheduled to ensure appropriate arrangements can be made in advance of a visit.
- ✓ Family members /friends will be advised what is required prior to the visit
- ✓ Family members/friends will be asked to wash hands/use hand gel and take their temperature before the visit starts.
- ✓ Children under 16 need to be accompanied by an adult.
- ✓ It is advised that visits to residential houses are kept to approx. 1 hour. Social distancing applies.
- ✓ Visits can take place in the garden of the residential house for a maximum of 2 hours.
- ✓ We would recommend that 3 or less people from one visiting group attend per visit
- ✓ Family members are required to limit interactions with other residents during the visits.
- ✓ Where the service user is unable to socially distance:
 - If indoors, family members/ friends will be asked to wear a surgical mask (after you say hello), provided by St Michael's House.
 - We strongly recommend that these visits take place outdoors and face coverings are worn. In this instance, family/ friends may attend for 1 hour. To be explained in advance by staff members.
 - If the service user cannot socially distance and cannot wear mask- it is recommended the visit lasts no longer than 15 minutes (indoors and outdoors).
- ✓ Service users can meet family & friends in local parks/ beaches/ or go for a walk
- ✓ Staff are required to wear face masks when supporting service users - please do not feel nervous or afraid of this.
- ✓ Overnight visits to family homes may resume, however the team will need to assess the rights and the risk of the situation on an individualised and "house by house" basis. Please ask the person in charge for more information on this.
- ✓ Families will be required to take temperatures and to sign a health declaration, at the beginning and the end of the overnight visit, confirming that all family members are well.
- ✓ It is advised that families limit visitors in the family home, when the service user is staying overnight, and that they limit community engagement to reduce the risk of infection or transmission of Covid 19.
- ✓ In the event that a service user becomes ill on an overnight visit, this will need to be assessed on a case by case basis, as there may be risks to others in the residential house, particularly if another resident has an underlying condition. In some instances the service user may not be able to return to the residential house. The service user will be required to self isolate for 14 days and the residents and staff as well as the family household will be required to restrict their movements, as per national guidelines.
- ✓ Where there are suspected or confirmed cases of Covid 19 in a residential house all visits to family homes, residential houses and outdoor family meetings will be suspended during this time.
- ✓ If visiting is suspended due to a suspected / confirmed case of COVID-19 you will be told that there is no visiting allowed. All staff will protect the confidentiality of the person who is suspected/confirmed of having COVID-19. You will not be told who the person is.
- ✓ SMH will record what visitors are in the centre/ garden on any given day- this will help with contact tracing if necessary.
- ✓ SMH will follow public health guidance.

If you need any further information please contact the Person in Charge. They will talk you through safe visiting in the centre.