

Leaving the ward during the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic

Information leaflet



Although things are changing outside...

We remain committed to the safety and wellbeing of all our patients, staff and visitors.



We require that you continue to wear face masks, and observe hands, face, space while in our healthcare setting.

Leaving the ward during the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic

Leaving the ward is a really important part of you getting better.

While the pandemic is here, we need to take extra care to make sure we keep everyone safe.

Leaving the ward

Leave means being able to leave the ward you are on.

There are different kinds of leave and sometimes you might have to go with staff.

- Leaving the ward on your own - this could be to go for a walk in the hospital grounds. This is called 'unescorted leave'.
- Leaving the ward for a short time to go out with your family or a friend – this could be in the hospital grounds, at home or to do some other activity like shopping. This is called 'accompanied leave.'

- Leave the ward to go home or somewhere else with a member of staff of the hospital. This is called 'escorted leave.

Your leave is decided by your Responsible Clinician.

Your Independent Mental Health Advocate can help you understand this.

If there is a case of Covid-19 on the ward, your leave will have not be allowed to happen until we know you are OK and it is safe for you to go out.

Extra steps that need to be taken

Some extra things need to happen because of the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and you will need to agree to these things before you leave the ward.

You will need to have a test for Covid-19 before you go on your leave which will need to be negative (say that you haven't got Covid-19).

If you are going to your home, we will ask questions about the people who live there to try to make sure they don't have Covid-19.

If you are going on leave to meet up with your family or friends in the grounds of the hospital, you will need to follow the hands, face, space rules.

When you get back to the ward you will need to follow the hands, face, space rules.

If you:

- have come into contact with anyone who has Covid-19 while you were on leave, or
- have had an appointment or been admitted to another hospital
- don't return to the ward when you should

you will need to self-isolate on a green ward (this is a ward where nobody has Covid-19) when you come back to the unit.

If this happens, you will need to be tested for Covid-19 on the day you get back to the unit, and again on the 3rd, 5th and 7th day. This is so that we can make sure you are well and that we keep everyone safe on the ward.

**If you
need help to
understand this
leaflet or would like it
in a different language
or format such as large
print, Braille or audio,
please ask a
member of
staff.**

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