**Ref No:** FOI/2324/SG13373

**Date FOI request received:** 20 July 2023

**Date FOI response:** 16 August 2023

**REQUEST & OUR RESPONSE:**

**REQUEST:**

1. Did your Trust alter or update its visitor policy in response to Covid-19, yes or no? **OUR RESPONSE:** Yes.

a. If yes, what changes were introduced?

**OUR RESPONSE:** Nationally, visiting was first suspended on 8 April 2020, and lifted in June 2020, but LPT’s restrictions continued due to the Leicester Lockdown and level of transmission. This was relaxed around September / October 2020, and visiting was allowed by booked appointments. There would have been instances where restrictions were implemented again due to outbreaks. Visiting was again suspended nationally on 31 December 2021 due to the Omicron variant and limited to extenuating circumstances. All access to wards was restricted at different periods in response to Government emergency legislation and guidance.

b. If yes, are any of those policies still in place?

**OUR RESPONSE:** No. Our current visiting guidance can be found on our website here: <https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/latest/covid-19-latest-information/covid-19-visiting/>.

i. If yes, which of those policies are still in place?

**OUR RESPONSE:** Not applicable.

2. Does the Trust currently have any visitation policies that:

a. Would prevent a patient from receiving a visitor?

**OUR RESPONSE:** Yes.

i. If yes, in what wards or circumstances does this apply?

**OUR RESPONSE:** Inpatient wards where the practice of seclusion may occur. In DMH this is a Case by case basis, however patients in seclusion would generally not have visitors for the period of seclusion due to safety and privacy and dignity of patient, visitors and staff

ii. If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?

**OUR RESPONSE:** Yes

b. Set a restriction on the number of different people able to visit a patient during their stay

**OUR RESPONSE:** Limited during the initial period of Covid 19 to one visitor per day to reduce the impact of track and trace, in line with IPC guidance – booking system was implemented to support this.

Currently within CHS due to patients being within a bay they are limited to 2 visitors at any one time, but there is no restriction on the number of visitors overall. CHS also operate visiting times within the wards which is currently 14.00 – 20.00 hours, individual requests outside of these hours are considered on a case-by-case basis. These restrictions existed before March 2020 but the visiting times have changed.

i. If yes, in what wards or circumstances would the number of different people visiting a patient be restricted?

**OUR RESPONSE:** During covid 19 all inpatient areas

ii. If yes, how many different people do these restrictions permit as visitors?

**OUR RESPONSE:** one per patient per day at height of pandemic

iii. If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?

**OUR RESPONSE:** No

**Attachments:** N/A