

**Albert Heaney**  
**Dirprwy Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol**  
**Deputy Director General**  
**Y Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**  
**Health and Social Services Group**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

To:  
Registered Providers and Responsible  
Individuals of Care Home Services in Wales (adults and children)  
Directors of Social Services  
Chief Executives of Health Boards

16 June 2020

Dear Colleagues

### **Update on guidance for visits to care home services – face coverings**

You will recall I wrote to you on 5 June setting out the steps we are taking to support you in planning how your services can safely accommodate visits from friends and family, as we begin to move out of lockdown. This letter is available at:

<https://gov.wales/visits-care-homes-and-coronavirus-guidance-service-providers>.

I am now writing to alert you to a change in this advice regarding the use of face coverings for outdoor visits, following the publication of updated advice from the Chief Medical Officer:

<https://gov.wales/chief-medical-officers-advice-on-face-masks-html>

FAQs on face coverings:

<https://gov.wales/face-coverings-frequently-asked-questions>

FAQs on medical masks:

<https://gov.wales/medical-masks-frequently-asked-questions>

Consistent with the Chief Medical Officer's advice face coverings are not required to be worn by visitors, when visits are outdoors and social distancing is maintained. Some visitors may choose to wear face coverings, particularly if they themselves are in vulnerable groups, however this is a personal choice.

Thank you to all those who have contributed their views to Care Inspectorate Wales on how we can safely enable visits to take place. We are currently working with the inspectorate and key stakeholders on the more detailed visitor guidance and hope to publish this in the coming weeks. I will update you when this document is finalised.

Yours sincerely

**ALBERT HEANEY**  
**Deputy Director General**