

Testing of visitors for physical contact during social visits

From Tuesday 3rd August 2021 we are going to be allowing physical contact in visits for visitors who have had a negative COVID test.

HMPPS have been piloting testing for contact in some prisons and had some really positive feedback. We know not having contact with your loved ones has been one of the hardest parts of COVID so we are pleased the results from these pilots mean we can now improve visits for you.

You should take the test at home on the day of your visit and bring the evidence of a negative result with you (an e-mail or text message from the NHS or third party provider). Visitors who have not taken a community test, or who do not provide proof of a negative result will not be permitted to have physical contact.

The person you are visiting may not have had a test before the visit. You will need to have a chat with them and decide whether you are happy having contact if they have not had a test. We know that not everyone will feel comfortable with physical contact, as long as you don't have any COVID symptoms you can still come into the prison for visits without having physical contact.

You will not need to take a test for a visit without physical contact, however testing helps prevent COVID coming into the prison helping us protect people and keeping activities, such as visits open.

Children under 11 can have contact with the person they are visiting without taking a test.

Testing does not remove the need for COVID safe measures – face coverings and increased hand hygiene will still be required at all times, our staff will continue to wear face coverings too.

COVID remains with us, we are seeing an increase of cases in the community. If we have an outbreak within the prison we may need to bring back social distancing or pause visits while we manage the outbreak.

THANK YOU

#HIDDENHEROES