



COVID-19

ADMISSIONS POLICY

2021

Protecting the health and safety of our clients, associates and community remains our highest priority. This COVID-19 Admissions Policy has been produced to strengthen the clinical management of all entering Birchwood Residential Treatment Centre during the Coronavirus pandemic.



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Birchwood Residential Treatment Centre are doing our utmost to continue to provide the best, safest practice for all our service users and referrers. This new policy will address all the issues that have arisen due to the COVID-19.

We continue to put the safety of our clients and team at the forefront of all that we do and this has resulted in us amending our policies and procedures as outlined here.

Please do read this information and get in touch if you have any queries at all.

Birchwood Residential Treatment Centre
23-25 Balls Road, Prenton
Merseyside. CH43 5RF
0151 670 0033 (24 hour phonenumber)

Birchwood Residential Treatment Centre are putting the following extra measures in place to protect all clients and staff.

- Prior to your admission our office will be in touch to complete a coronavirus screening assessment. This assessment will be repeated when you arrive for admission – **IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS, TEMPERATURE OR A COUGH YOU MUST LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- **All admissions need to provide evidence of a negative PCR result 72 hours prior to their admission date.**
- Your keyworker will also have advised you of our intention to isolate all new admissions for a period of 7 days and will have gained your consent for you to be included in this. If you have received both Covid-19 vaccinations 2 weeks prior to admission and can evidence this, you will not be required to complete the 7-day isolation period. You must still produce a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to your admission date. We will repeat this request for consent via the telephone prior to admission and again when you arrive at Birchwood Residential Treatment Centre.
- On admission, we will escort you straight to your room where you will stay for a period of 7 days. This 7-day period is in line with public health guidelines for people who have symptoms or suspects they may have the coronavirus. We will follow this guidance even though you are being admitted without symptoms as we feel it will provide everyone with extra safety measures.
- If symptoms do emerge during your stay, we will then isolate you for a further 7 days (starting from the onset of symptoms). If you test positive for COVID-19 during your stay, then you must isolate for 10 days (Starting from the onset of symptoms or the date of your positive test result).
- Nursing staff and recovery workers will support you by delivering all your treatment needs to you in your room. You may not see the same nurse / recovery worker every day, but we will ensure an introduction by every staff

member involved in your care. You will be actively involved in any decisions, reviews and discussions regarding your care.

- You will be treated by staff wearing protective equipment such as masks, aprons and gloves. This may seem alarming to some but behind the masks you will find a friendly, caring and experienced member of staff who has your safety as their priority.
- If your isolation period has been extended for 7 days because of emerging symptoms and you become acutely unwell you will be safely transferred to an NHS medical facility for specialist care.
- If you do not have any emerging symptoms during the initial 7 day isolation period, you will be able to join the wider patient community to engage in the therapeutic programme. You will continue to receive the nursing and medical support you require.
- During any isolation period, smoking arrangements are as follows.

You will be allowed into the garden area to smoke and this will be agreed with Birchwood staff. You must not leave your room to go down to the smoking area without prior agreement. This is to ensure we keep the 2-metre social distancing from any members of the community as per government guidelines.

- Any client who refuses to remain in their room during isolation will be discharged to ensure the safety of others at Birchwood. However, we would urge you to talk to staff about any concerns as we may be able to give reassurances and support you to stay and continue your treatment. You may also change your mind about isolation/treatment once admitted and if this happens, we will support you to return home safely. We are unable to provide transport for Covid positive or symptomatic service users who may wish to self-discharge before their treatment is complete.
- During detox you will have access to a range of electronics including a television/DVD and radio.
- During your isolation period you will be able to have access to your mobile phone. **Once you have completed isolation you will be asked to return your phone to staff for safe keeping.**
- ALL services have a laundry facility and staff will ensure bedding and other personal laundry is cleaned when required. You will be provided with infection control standard red laundry bags which will then be passed to staff to complete.
- Staff will deliver meals to your room whilst you are in isolation. Staff will provide daily menus to service users in isolation so you can choose what you wish to eat the following day. Regular hot and cold beverages will also be offered and there is a vending machine on site.

- We offer regular shop runs where staff can also help with purchasing items from the shop such as newspapers, magazines etc as required.
- There will be a timetable of one to one coaching work together with group zoom calls on line to help facilitate your recovery. The group zoom calls will cover the syllabus for recovery that would normally be offered during regular group work and clients will be encouraged to contribute to these groups just as they would in a face to face group environment. You will also have private one to one support with one of our recovery team.
- Your physical and emotional well-being is our priority, and we will give you the opportunity to provide us with feedback from your experience. Our focus is to make sure that you feel safe, cared for and comfortable during your treatment period.

You are welcome to telephone staff on **0151 670 0033 (24 hour phone line)** if you have any other questions or any concerns about your upcoming admission.



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***** CLIENT DISCLAIMER – ADMISSIONS POLICY *****

- ✓ Prior to entry to the building, you will be asked again if you consent to the 7-day isolation period.
- ✓ If you have received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccination, you will not be required to isolate on admission, providing you can show proof of both doses.
- ✓ All service users must provide proof of a negative PCR test result 72 hours prior to admission.

We will not be able to proceed with your admission if you do not consent to following isolation requirements.

- ✓ You will be greeted by staff at the door wearing PPE.
- ✓ During your stay at Birchwood, you will be required to complete regular PCR testing (providing you have not tested positive for Covid within the last 90 days) LFT test kits are available for service users on request.
- ✓ You will be taken directly to an allocated bedroom,
- ✓ You will be asked to wash your hands or use the hand gel provided.
- ✓ All your belongings will be taken directly to the bedroom and a staff member will conduct a bag search as per unit policy. Medication will be removed and handed over to the clinical team.
- ✓ Admission procedure/consultation will be conducted in your bedroom.
- ✓ If during the 7 day isolation period you become symptomatic, a further 7 days isolation will commence (e.g. symptoms start on day 3 of the initial 7-day isolation, a further 7 days = 10 days in total). The Unit doctor/On-call doctor will be informed.
- ✓ If during the isolation period a symptomatic patient becomes acutely unwell the doctor/on-call doctor will be informed. We will follow the NHS guidelines for transfer to the allocated hospital as directed by NHS support. If an emergency 999 call is required the operator will be informed of the patient status.
- ✓ **Please do remember all these guidelines and procedures are in place to keep you safe and well. All our staff are approachable and friendly and will do their utmost to help you settle into the Unit.**

I accept the conditions outlined above and understand that failure to comply with the procedures above may result in my being discharged from the unit.

Print Name: **Date:**

Signature: