**RESEARCH PARTICIPANT HOME VISITS**

The following code of conduct sets out rules for research participant home visits, to ensure we remain a safe environment, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**By conducting external participant home visits, you are confirming you understand and agree to the terms and conditions of this code of conduct:**  
  
1. The Research Nurse must adhere to the Trust’s [Lone Worker Policy](http://merlin/Pages/Results.aspx?k=Lone%20Worker%20Policy), [Uniform & and Infection Control Policy](https://cuhstaffportal.co.uk/ppe-and-infection-control/). Staff with concerns should discuss their specific circumstances with their line manager and Occupational Health.

2. The Research Nurse is required to have completed the appropriate PHE training regarding PPE, Mask fitting and should have completed a COVID risk assessment. These protocols are available on the [CUH staff portal](https://cuhstaffportal.co.uk/ppe-and-infection-control/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-old-2/ppe-educational-programme/). If at any point a staff member feels unsure about PPE protocols, they MUST NOT ENTER a participant’s home

3. As much notice as possible should be given in advance to make such home visit arrangements with the participant. The Research Nurse should confirm details of any intended visit with the participant and go through the procedure and any requirements so they are fully informed. If the participant confirms they or a member of their household is in the shielding category then this visit should be discussed with line management as to whether it is appropriate.

4. A call should be placed the day before to confirm that neither party is displaying symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell and taste etc) which would necessitate rescheduling the vist for another time. This call must be recorded in EPIC. Participants should have a contact number to call to enable an assessment by a health professional prior to the visit.

5. Staff are advised to travel using a personal vehicle or pool car. Only one Research Nurse is allowed at one time to minimise risk and social distancing must be maintained as near enough as is possible. The time of entry, visit details and time of leaving should be recorded and logged for monitoring purposes and to record on EPIC.

6. Following the participant visit, PPE should only be removed and placed in a clinical waste bag once the staff member’s base is reached. Decontaminated and cleaning producers should be exercised with caution, taking care to decontaminate the vehicle also. Relevant guidance on the [PHE Community Care procedures](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/04/C0198-community-health-services-sop.pdf) should be followed.

7. Extra precautions must be taken for transporting samples which must be securely contained in tertiary packaging. Good laboratory practice, including the use of standard biological safety precautions, regular training of staff, and the use of standard operating procedures, will help minimise potential risks.

8. Members of staff are responsible for ensuring their compliance with this code of conduct.