

## **Interim Covid-19 Safety Policy**

### **Kidney Care UK Mount Cook Residential Weekend**

### **Friday 8 – Monday 11 September 2023**

In relaunching the Young Adult Residential Weekend in 2022, Kidney Care UK adopted a risk averse Covid-19 Safety Policy, recognising that, although all Government restrictions had been lifted, that some kidney patients, especially those with weakened immune systems, had lower levels of protection than the population in general. Consequently, the Covid-19 policy rules for 2022 were set at high bar for anyone wishing to attend.

Thankfully much has changed as we move into 2023. Kidney Care UK will be continuing to seek advice and guidance from renal clinicians, renal national bodies, and infection, prevention, and control experts to reduce risks as we prepare for the 2023 Young Adult Residential weekend. Therefore, a fully updated Covid Policy for those attending the weekend will be published in early August 2023 to ensure that this information accurately reflects current expert guidance and government policy.

However, anyone wishing to attend must still comply with the below guidance and any additional requirements in the updated Covid-19 Policy to be published in August 2023. This policy will be accessible from the beginning of August on the YAKG webpage:

**[www.kidneycareuk.org/YAKG-2023](http://www.kidneycareuk.org/YAKG-2023)**

**All patients, staff and volunteers wishing to attend the Kidney Care UK Mount Cook Residential Weekend in 2023 will need to comply with the following regulations:**

- 1.** Only patients who have completed all their eligible vaccinations can apply for and attend the event. Patient vaccination status will be checked against the NHS Outcomes4Health system (vaccination database) by the administration team to confirm compliance
- 2.** All healthcare professional Kidney Care UK volunteers, Kidney Care UK Peer Supporters and Kidney Care UK staff attending must have completed all their eligible vaccinations. Vaccination status will be checked by the administration team against the NHS Outcomes4Health system (vaccination database) to confirm compliance.
- 3.** Everyone attending, will be required to have proof of negative Covid-19 tests before travelling. The frequency and timing of these Lateral flow tests (LFTs) will be detailed in the August updated

Covid Policy. A screen shot/confirmation email/text message/WhatsApp message of the test result will be required to be sent to their named volunteer buddy for verification. Anyone feeling unwell must not attend the event.

**4.** The nearest renal centre will be fully briefed in advance of the weekend and agreed protocols will be adhered to if an individual tests positive for or suspects they have symptoms of Covid-19. Check [www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do) for the current NHS and government guidelines regarding Covid-19 symptoms.

**5.** During the weekend, anyone who feels unwell or who is exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms must immediately isolate themselves and contact the named Kidney Care UK staff group leader and the Mount Cook Duty Manager. Designated isolation rooms have been identified in the Mount Cook bed allocation. A supply of Covid-19 LFTs will be available at Mount Cook for all those attending to use. Anyone with a suspected Covid-19 infection will be required to leave Mount Cook and to be collected by a friend or family member and to return home as soon as practically possible.

**6.** There will be a strong focus on health and safety, risk reduction and the Code of Conduct policy. This policy will be discussed as part of the Young Adult Residential Weekend Zoom webinar on Wednesday 4 September. These protocols will then be reemphasised at the Mount Cook Friday evening welcome briefing (on Friday 8 September).