

Verulam Health Care Limited

# Verulam House Nursing Home

## Inspection report

Verulam House  
Verulam Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 4DH

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Date of inspection visit:  
11 January 2022

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## Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

**Inspected but not rated**

# Summary of findings

## Overall summary

Verulam House Nursing Home is a nursing home providing accommodation with personal care and nursing care for up to 50 people. On the day we inspected there were 40 people living in the home.

Verulam House offers accommodation to people over three floors. A lift and stairs provide access to all floors and communal areas. People had access to a landscaped garden with patio and seating areas as well as other communal areas where they could spend time and socialise with others in the home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The provider followed the current Government National Guidance regarding care home visiting. People had three named visitors and an essential care giver. Information was available for visitors to follow. Visitors were supported to test for COVID 19 prior to entering the home and instructed how to use PPE.

The provider had a system in place to ensure staff had the necessary vaccinations and had completed the necessary COVID 19 testing prior to working in the home.

The home had sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE). There were PPE stations available throughout the premises. Staff had received training in infection prevention and control and how to don and doff PPE.

The home had a recent outbreak and staff were aware of who to contact should they have a outbreak of COVID 19 and the protocols to follow.

We were told new admissions and people returning from hospital would be required to isolate for up to 14 days.

## The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

### **Is the service safe?**

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

**Inspected but not rated**

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## **Detailed findings**

### Background to this inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. This inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

As part of CQC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic we are looking at how services manage infection control and visiting arrangements. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection prevention and control measures the provider had in place. We also asked the provider about any staffing pressures the service was experiencing and whether this was having an impact on the service.

This inspection took place on 12 January 2022. We gave the service approximately 24 hours' notice of the inspection.

# Is the service safe?

## Our findings

### Staffing

- The provider told us they had measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 related staff pressures.

### How well are people protected by the prevention and control of infection?

- We were assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules.
- We were assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.
- From 11 November 2021 registered persons must make sure all care home workers and other professionals visiting the service are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have an exemption or there is an emergency.
- The service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Although the home appeared very clean, we were not fully assured the home had a system in place to monitor the cleaning of communal areas.
- We have also signposted the provider to develop their approach.