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## Visiting suspended at RUH Bath

The Royal United Hospital in Bath has suspended visiting until further notice, to help protect patients and staff and in line with government advice to slow the spread of coronavirus.

It follows the launch of government's nationwide 'Stay Home, Save Lives' publicity campaign, asking everyone to follow the rules on social distancing.

The RUH has now changed its visiting rules, with new restrictions coming into immediate effect.

**The only exceptional circumstances where one visitor – an immediate family member or carer – will be permitted to visit are listed below:**

- Birthing partner accompanying a woman in labour
- Parent or appropriate adult visiting your child
- Patients nearing end of life

People are asked to contact the ward in advance to discuss appropriate arrangements.

Any inpatients with COVID-19 or awaiting test results for COVID-19 are treated in isolation and are **not** able to receive visitors.

During this time we ask and encourage visitors to use other methods of keeping in touch with your loved ones in hospital, including phone and video calls.

People attending for treatment as an adult outpatient should come into hospital alone. Child outpatients can be accompanied by one adult, but no siblings.

**You must not visit in any circumstances if you have a new persistent cough or high temperature.**

Trust Chief Executive James Scott said: “We have not taken this step lightly and we recognise this is a difficult time for all our patients, their families and carers. Your health, safety and wellbeing, and that of our patients, communities and individuals and teams across the organisation, remains our absolute priority.

“Thank you for your continued support and understanding at this challenging time.”

For more information about visiting the RUH, please see <https://bit.ly/2QQ7JIA>

**Ends**

#### **Notes to Editor:**

The World Health Organization has announced that 2020 will be the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Our nurses and midwives are a big part of the RUH family and throughout the year we will be celebrating the work they do, going above and beyond every day to give our patients compassionate care.

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future)

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Chair:  
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:  
James Scott

