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## Cancer patients encouraged to return to RUH

A cancer patient receiving treatment at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust has called on other cancer patients to make sure they keep their appointments, calling the RUH 'clean, well-organised and safe to return to'.

The reassurance comes amid national reports that people have delayed getting checked for cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dave Hayward, from Bath, receives regular immunotherapy treatment for melanoma, visiting the RUH every few weeks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Dave received treatment, along with all of the RUH's cancer patients, from RUH staff temporarily based at the Circle Bath hospital.

Cancer outpatients are now returning to the RUH and Dave said it's important they visit for treatment and appointments.

"I had to visit the RUH a couple of times during the height of the pandemic, once to visit the cancer unit and once for a procedure in Dermatology," said Dave.

"I was nervous about visiting, but as soon as I arrived I felt reassured and put at ease.

"There are hand sanitisers and masks for patients when you arrive and there are lots of reminders about the importance of social distancing.

"When I arrived at the Oncology department I had my temperature taken and was asked to sanitise my hands. The department was very clean and the waiting area had been adapted to allow for social distancing, with much bigger spaces between chairs.

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Libby Walters



“All of the staff wore PPE, which I found very reassuring, and they were very friendly and supportive.

“My message to cancer patients who may be wary of visiting the hospital is: don’t worry. The hospital is clean and well organised.

“It’s so important that you keep getting your treatment and attend appointments – don’t put it off.”

Dave added that he had received excellent care from the RUH.

“All the staff, especially the Macmillan team, have been fantastic,” he said. “They are so supportive and reassuring and you get to know them so well, they become like friends.”

## Ends

### Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as 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 are 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.

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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)