

09.10.20

Communications Department
Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

Ruh-tr.communicationsteam@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk
<https://twitter.com/RUHBath>

Media Release

Patients and visitors reminded of hospital visiting restrictions

With more patients now back on site at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, we're taking the opportunity to remind everyone about the visiting restrictions which remain in place and the importance of not visiting anyone in the hospital if you are unwell yourself or have any COVID symptoms.

Limiting the amount of visitors on site and keeping to social distancing guidelines plays an important role in preventing the spread of infection and keeping everyone at the hospital – patients, visitors and staff – safe.

For the latest information on visiting restrictions go to our website:
<https://www.ruh.nhs.uk/patients/services/wards/visiting.asp>

Key points for patients and visitors to remember are:

- **Inpatients**

Where we are able to support visiting in a safe and manageable way, **inpatients can have one visitor a day for up to an hour**. To ensure social distancing, visits must be booked with ward teams the day before.

There are different visiting arrangements for: End of life patients, vulnerable adults, Maternity, Children's Ward, NICU and patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Please contact the ward in advance to discuss appropriate arrangements.

- **A&E**

Patients arriving at our A&E department are asked to come on their own.

We are following social distancing guidelines and, as a result, have less space in our emergency department waiting room.

You can be accompanied by a partner, family member, friend or carer, if:

- You are a patient with a physical or mental disability, who cannot attend alone
- You are under the age of 16

- **Outpatients**

Patients attending outpatient appointments are asked to come alone, unless advised otherwise by a clinician. There are **some exceptions** for **Maternity appointments** - [find out more](#).

Child outpatients can be accompanied by one adult and no siblings.

Outpatients attending the hospital on their own are welcome to phone a family member, carer or friend to listen in via speaker phone, ask questions and support them during their appointment.

Patients and visitors are also reminded to make sure they observe social distancing and wear a face covering at all times. We do recognise that not all patients will be able to wear a face covering, such as young children or those with breathing difficulties. [Find out more in our FAQ](#)

RUH Deputy Medical Director Richard Graham said: “The hospital is getting busier and we’ve had to make changes to our waiting rooms and public spaces to support social distancing, so we’re keen to remind patients and visitors about our ongoing visiting restrictions.

“These restrictions have been put in place following government guidance to make the hospital as safe as possible for everyone so it’s really important that they are followed. We are making every effort to minimise the number of people on site and are supporting our staff to work remotely where possible.

“We’d like to thank everyone for their understanding while these visiting restrictions remain in place. We appreciate that it is difficult but we will continue to give our patients the very best care and support and make sure they can be supported by a friend, family or carer whenever possible, even if this is by phone.”

We’ve made a short video reminding patients and visitors about these visiting restrictions, which you can watch [here](#)

Ends

Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200th 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.

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

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk