



# Royal United Hospitals Bath

NHS Foundation Trust

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**Communications Department**

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## Media Release

### RUH plays important role in new COVID-19 vaccine study

Researchers at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) are playing an important role in a new worldwide COVID-19 vaccine study.

Volunteers from across the West of England are being called on to join up to 30,000 more to test the safety and effectiveness of a new vaccine candidate developed by the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson.

Dr Kelly Spencer PhD, RUH Research Manager – Operations said: “The RUH being part of this important trial, and others in the future, provides an excellent opportunity for staff and residents within our local communities to support the ongoing efforts to put an end to this pandemic. The more COVID vaccines we can develop, the quicker they can be rolled out, both here in the UK and internationally, to ensure that all communities have equal access to a lifesaving vaccination.

“The RUH will be responsible for the ongoing monitoring and follow-up of trial participants within our local area. This will involve appointments every few months to test antibody levels in blood, collect information on any side effects and detect whether or not individuals have been infected/in contact with the virus.”

[Read the full story here](#)

If you are interested in taking part in the study go to [gb.ensemblestudy.com](http://gb.ensemblestudy.com)

**Ends**

**Notes to Editor:**

Chair:  
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:  
Cara Charles-Barks



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.

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)