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Media Release

Face masks reintroduced at the RUH to keep patients, staff and visitors safe

The Royal United Hospitals (RUH) Bath NHS Foundation Trust has re-introduced face masks for staff, patients and visitors in all clinical areas following an increase in COVID-19 infections in the local community. The changes come into effect from 7 July.

Clinical areas include all wards, outpatient and diagnostic areas. Masks are not mandatory in the hospital corridors, although their use is encouraged. While social distancing is no longer a mandatory requirement, people are encouraged to be mindful of each other's personal space and to wash and sanitise their hands regularly.

Chief Nurse Toni Lynch said: "To keep our patients, staff and visitors safe, we are asking everyone who attends the hospital to wear a face mask or covering in our clinical areas, unless they are exempt. There are hygiene stations at all entrances fully stocked with masks and hand sanitiser to support people to follow this guidance.

"We also ask that you do not come to the hospital if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, unless it is an emergency. Instead, please visit the NHS website for more information on COVID-19 symptoms and what to do if you have them.

"We'd like to thank everyone for their support in following this guidance. Your actions will help to keep our patients and staff safe."

All the latest COVID-19 guidance is published on the RUH website. Please check before you come: www.ruh.nhs.uk

Ends

Notes to Editor:

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