

16.07.21

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

COVID-19 restrictions to remain in place at RUH

All current COVID-19 guidelines will remain in place at the Royal United Hospital's Bath NHS Foundation Trust from Monday 19 July, when Covid restrictions are removed in England.

There will be no change for patients, visitors and staff at the RUH.

This means that everyone on the hospital site will still be expected to wear a facemask - unless they are medically exempt or are a young child - which is in line with NHS and Public Health England guidance for healthcare settings.

All staff will also continue to wear masks as well as all necessary PPE.

Current visiting restrictions will remain in place. Visitors and patients will still be expected to sanitise their hands on arrival, follow the one-way system in the hospital's Atrium, maintain a two-metre social distance and keep to the left when walking along the hospital's corridors.

All visitors and outpatients are also being encouraged to take a lateral flow COVID-19 test before they come to the hospital, to make sure they are not asymptomatic. Anyone with symptoms should not come on site.

RUH Chief Nurse Toni Lynch said: "From Monday, Covid restrictions will be removed in England, but it's important that our patients and visitors know there will be no changes to the RUH's COVID-19 guidance.

"That means we expect everyone on site to wear a facemask while inside the hospital and to make sure they sanitise their hands every time they enter one of our hospital buildings.

"We will continue to have infection control stations at each of our entrances where you can find masks and hand gel.

“Our number one priority is to make sure everyone on the hospital site is safe and we believe the best way to do that is to keep all the practices we’ve put in place during the pandemic to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

“To further reduce the risk of infection, we will be keeping our current visiting guidance in place, which helps to reduce the number of people on the hospital site and means the most vulnerable can continue to safely attend hospital.

“We are also asking anyone who will be coming to the hospital to take a lateral flow test beforehand, to check they are not asymptomatic.

“I would like to thank all our patients and visitors for their understanding. We know that wearing a mask can be uncomfortable, particularly in warm weather, but by following this guidance you are doing your bit to help keep everyone on the hospital site safe.”

Chief Nursing Officer for England, Ruth May, said: “Face coverings and social distancing measures will remain in place across healthcare settings so that the most vulnerable people can continue to safely attend hospital, their GP surgery, pharmacy or any other healthcare settings for advice, care and treatment.

“And it is important for the public to continue to play their part when visiting NHS and care settings to help protect our staff and patients, particularly those who may be more vulnerable to infections.

“As restrictions are lifted in many places on Monday everyone has a part to play in helping to control the Covid by getting vaccinated and acting responsibly.

“It is vital that in healthcare settings, we do all we can to reduce the risk of infection for those working in our services and those who need our care.”

The latest visiting information is available on our website here:

<https://www.ruh.nhs.uk/patients/services/wards/visiting.asp>

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.

Chair:
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:
Cara Charles-Barks



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

Chair:
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:
Cara Charles-Barks

