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Media Release

Patients, visitors and staff must continue to wear face coverings at the RUH to help keep everyone safe

All current COVID-19 guidelines will remain in place at the Royal United Hospital's Bath NHS Foundation Trust from Thursday 24 February, when Covid restrictions are removed in England.

This means patients, visitors will still need to wear face coverings, unless they are exempt, and observe social distancing and the one-way systems in place at the hospital. They are also asked not to come to the hospital if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

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

Dr Bernie Marden, Medical Director, said: "Keeping patients and staff safe from COVID-19 is one of our top priorities.

"We know that wearing face masks and social distancing are two of the most important things we can do to stop COVID-19 spreading, so, that's why the recent ending of COVID-19 restrictions don't apply in healthcare settings.

"Patients and visitors are still expected to wear face masks in the hospital unless they're exempt, and we have fully stocked hygiene stations at the doors to help you do this. Our staff will continue to wear face masks and PPE too.

"We treat some very poorly people who are particularly vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19, so by continuing to follow this guidance you are actively helping to keep people safe.

"I would like to thank all our patients and visitors for their understanding. All the latest COVID-19 guidance is published on the RUH website, so if there's anything you're not sure about please do check before you come in."

Staff will also continue to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms, a positive lateral flow test or if they are a contact of someone with COVID-19, to help keep everyone at the hospital safe.

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