

2nd July 2021

Dear friends and family members,

I am writing as, once again, Covid-19 is affecting Holy Cross Hospital. A whole-site test on Monday confirmed that a member of staff on the night team is Covid-19 positive (she last worked over a week ago, and is self-isolating), a patient tested borderline positive, another patient was visited last weekend by a relative who subsequently tested positive, and a couple of staff are isolating due to Track and Trace instructions. All had been double vaccinated.

This morning I can confirm negative results for re-swabs taken for the patients mentioned above. However, in light of the situation, and in recognising the exponential rise in case numbers at the current time, we are taking a prudent yet flexible approach to managing Covid risk at Holy Cross.

Visiting

For time being

- please would you consider reducing the frequency of your visits. We realise it's a balance. There is flexibility for up to three visits per patient a week, but switching from a physical visit to a virtual visit, or just reducing the frequency could both help. The reception team will assist with both physical and virtual visiting (01428 643311 – Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm).
- with the exception of visits already booked, from Monday we are restricting patient visiting back to two named people (we had increased this to five). We are aware of a couple of situations where this arrangement needs to be flexed.
- we are also stepping up testing again. Whether or not you have had a vaccination, please either arrive 30 minutes prior to your booked visit time for a lateral flow test, OR take a lateral flow test at home, upload the results to the NHS App and present this on arrival at Holy Cross just before your visit time.
- PPE and social distancing guidance remains in place. Please wear your face mask and Visor throughout your visit.
- patient outings, with the exception of Selsey visits (from August onwards) will be switched to open air venues.
- we will be stepping down our volunteers for the time being.

The above are temporary measures and hope this current Covid-peak will pass by quickly.

In the meantime, please stay safe.

Kind regards

Ross, CEO