

13th November

Covid-19 - important email

Please ensure this email is communicated to all members in your team (some staff do not have individual email addresses).

Please also be aware that we are preparing an email for relatives and friends – this has NOT gone out at the time of sending this message to you, but we will let you know when it has gone today and what it says.

- **Marie Therese House**

I can confirm that, yesterday, four religious sisters in Marie Therese House tested positive for Covid-19, as well as one member of staff. Accordingly, additional infection prevention measures have been put in place, with all Sisters plus the member of staff self-isolating. We tested all the sisters and Marie-Therese House staff at the end of last week, and I can confirm that other results were negative.

Our staff groups are separate and we asked the MTH staff and sisters not to enter the hospital building (from Thursday of last week until further notice). A member of the MTH staff who lives in the staff accommodation on-site has been moved into St Joseph's. This is NOT to self-isolate (as they tested negative) but to maintain a separation between the staff groups. Holy Cross Hospital is providing Covid-management support to the convent, as well as PPE, food and supplies. We are also liaising with Public Health England.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sisters over the next ten or so days (14 days since their tests) while they self-isolate.

- **Father David** – has tested negative and has remained separate from the sisters for the last two weeks. He can therefore enter the hospital.
- **Inpatients** – We are planning to limit patient movement/staff movement within the hospital for the time being, but details will be in a separate email from Rasheed/Gina.
- **Outpatients** – The Physiotherapy Centre will close for one week 16th-20th November. This is just a precautionary measure. We are communicating to users of the service that this is due to a change in the organisation's overall covid-risk assessment, but not directly related to The Physiotherapy Centre.

- **News** - Please be circumspect with this information. If you receive a call from someone you don't recognise about the current situation, please do not try to answer it. Instead direct the enquiry to me **07751 303047**
- **Keep Covid-19 Out of Holy Cross Hospital** – this is the **first line** in our Covid-19 strategy and the primary safeguard to both patients and staff.

If you have any of the signs of Covid-19 (a loss of smell or taste, a fever (either a temperature measurement of 37.8C or more OR you are warm to the touch on your back or front) or you have a new continuous cough – or you are unsure), please **DO NOT** come to work. **If in doubt, please stay out!**

Instead remain at home and obtain a test <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. You must also phone Sue or Debbie in the HR Office – 01428 643311. HR will liaise with you and will confirm when it is safe to return to work.

For members of staff who are concerned about using sick leave (which can be an issue if you have recently joined the organisation), Covid-related leave will be treated as being separate from sick leave. If you have to isolate or shield you will be paid in the usual way. Again, **if in doubt, please stay out!**

When we look back at Covid-19 next year, my hope is to tell the story about how we managed a difficult situation and prevailed. And with our excellent staff, I fully expect to.