

30th December 2021

Dear family members and friends,

An update about the Covid situation at Holy Cross.

This morning 18 members of staff are isolating, and one patient is receiving treatment for Covid. As things currently stand, no other patients have Covid-19 infection. This is ahead of results being fully known from the all-staff/patient PCR test taken yesterday*. This contrasts with 7 confirmed (plus two inconclusive cases) a week ago. Covid positive cases are contained within St Anthony's ward, as well as two members of the inpatient physiotherapy team.

Our primary aim is to prevent further infection.

Ward staffing and care needs

Managing ward staffing levels has been challenging and may remain so for a while longer. The rota is updated every day (as staff isolate OR return from isolation/leave) and we make a forward plan for the following 7 days. Adequate levels of staff cover are in place.

We had a ward round yesterday. Patients are all stable with no cause for concern.

General Information

Covid prevalence in the community remains high and record numbers of positive PCR results have been recorded this week in the UK.

Various websites provide data for Covid-19 as follows:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/uk/>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveyspilot/24december2021>

Visiting, outpatients and testing

Inpatient visiting will remain suspended for a further week (in other words not before Monday 10th January) and outpatient Physiotherapy services will not reopen before Monday 10th January. These dates remain under review.

The next all staff/patient PCR test will be Tuesday 4th January, and we will advise on the resumption of visiting by email on Thursday 6th January*. We are extremely sorry for the impact this has on you at this time, and our aim is to resume visiting without any unnecessary delay.

Thank you

It's not been an easy 2021 for you and for the people that we are privileged to serve on the wards, and your support and understanding has been invaluable. Thank you. In spite of the current situation, we believe that 2022 will be more positive and we very much look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Kind regards

Ross

*at the time of writing, results from the PCR tests taken yesterday are that all patients on St Anthony's floor are negative (with one result still outstanding). Four results are back from St Mary's floor so far (all negative). Staff results reveal no additional cases, although not all results are back. Please note that results returned to Holy Cross only indicate that Covid-19 has been detected (not the variant).

** you are welcome to provisionally book visits (for visits from Monday 10th January). Reception is available to take bookings from 10am-4pm, Monday to Thursday (not including public holidays) – 01428 643311