

Dear relatives and friends

The start to 2021 has been difficult for patients, relatives, staff and everyone associated with Holy Cross.

We are very concerned about the transmissibility of the new variant of Covid-19 and so, as a precautionary measure, we arranged to carry out testing of all patients in early January and have repeated this several times since.

Despite most patients being asymptomatic, some tested positive and following mild disease they are coming back out of isolation. However, it is with great sadness that I write to inform you that we have lost four patients to Covid-19 in 2021.

It goes without saying that we have taken every step to manage and contain the virus and we continue to be proactive with our practices so as to limit the spread.

For those patients currently with the Covid infection, our focus is on helping them through this challenging time, as well as liaising with relatives and providing support. Indeed, we expect most patients to respond well.

However, we acknowledge that these are very anxious times for all families. Please be assured that our dedicated nurses and health care assistants are continuing to work hard to keep patients safe. I am hopeful that by the middle to end of next week we will have returned to more usual ways of working.

In terms of vaccinations, we have been in consultation with the NHS and I am pleased to inform you that the majority of patients and staff were vaccinated last week.

For patients and staff who had a covid infection within the last 28 days, vaccinations were not possible. We are liaising with the vaccinations team to arrange timely vaccinations for these remaining staff and patients.

There is no doubt that these are challenging times, but together we will come through this and I thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Kind regards

Rasheed