



Your Weekly NEWS

COVID-19 Update

As we know, the situation surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is constantly changing. As this is a new virus, we are learning more and more about it as the pandemic goes on.

You may have seen that yesterday, an additional symptom was added to the NHS symptoms list. Now, anyone suffering loss of taste or smell, or a noticeable change, should self-isolate for seven days to reduce the risk of spreading the infection, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jonathan Van-Tam said.

If the symptomatic person lives with others, they should stay at home for seven days, while all other household members should stay home for 14 days even if they do not have symptoms.

This means that the [symptoms of coronavirus](#) are now:

- high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

This won't change anything we are doing in terms of testing but it may mean that more people report symptoms they previously didn't consider to be coronavirus. This can only be good news as it means they can take the appropriate isolation advice and potentially help to reduce the spread of the virus.

As a reminder, if you or a member of your household develops any coronavirus symptoms, please do not come to work and contact our Occupational Health team on 01524 512290 for regarding isolation and swabbing.

Aaron Cummins, Chief Executive.





Your Weekly NEWS

Celebrating Equality and Human Rights Week

This year we have been unable to celebrate Equality and Human Rights Week how we normally would due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). This year to mark the week we have decided to take a look back at some of the amazing things colleagues have achieved over the years.




Disability Summit 30 April 2019

Speakers

- Kate Nash OBE – CEO, Purple Space
- Dr Ian McPherson – Chair of Surrey Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Dr Hannah Barham-Brown – disabled doctor, Tedspeaker
- Lisa Rodrigues – mental health campaigner
- University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust Disability Staff Network
- NHS England
- West Yorkshire Police

Why attend?

- Access the latest information on the NHS Workforce Disability Equality Standard (WDES), Disability Confident and the Learning Disability Employment Programme.
- Hear the voices of disabled people and learn about their experiences.
- Visit the Learning Hub to access resources and support from a variety of organisations.
- Improve your understanding of the inequalities and challenges faced by people with disabilities working within the NHS.
- Be part of an engaging event with lots of opportunities to make useful connections.

Event in partnership with: **NHS England**





Pathology services bulletin May 2020

Important updates from pathology services in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

- For the latest information from University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay, please visit this link: <https://nhscanl.sharepoint.com/sites/UHMBCOVID-19>
- For information on how to submit Inpatient samples for COVID-19 Screening: <http://uhmb/clinicalservices/ipc/Pages/COVID-19-Section.aspx?FilterField1=Category&FilterValue1=Testing>
- For all the latest guidances from Public Health England, visit this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

Please note Pathology turnaround times may be prolonged due to newly implemented infection prevention and procedures, increased demand and reduced capacity.

Guidance for sending samples to Pathology

- 1) All samples to be treated as positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- 2) Samples will no longer require transportation in a rigid transport container.
- 3) All samples MUST be double bagged.

Primary bag NPC:
KFD267 Available from
Pathology stores



Secondary bag with
request form attached
Available from Pathology
stores

Place sample in primary bag first then place into the normal Pathology bag attached to form.

Blood Sciences

Prioritisation and deferral of Blood Sciences Laboratory work during Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please note the following tests will not be offered until further notice:

- 1) Testing on pleural and peritoneal (ascitic) fluids (pH, protein, LDH, glucose) only provided on patients where the COVID status is known to be negative.
- 2) Faecal calprotectin.
- 3) Faecal elastase.
- 4) Tests that require contact such as sweat testing and endocrine dynamic function tests (if these are required urgently please contact the Clinical Biochemists to arrange).

Faecal haemoglobin (FIT) will continue as routine. To assist with lower GI 2WW triaging the CCG have approved that this test can be requested on Lorenzo for secondary care clinicians during the pandemic. All other routine tests will continue at present, but please consider reducing non-urgent testing as this will reduce patient contact with healthcare settings. In order to manage workload, certain specialist and batched tests may be performed less frequently.

 Your Weekly NEWS

Microbiology Changes to reporting of Urine Microscopy:

- No Urine Microscopy will be performed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic “microscopy unavailable due to COVID-19 pandemic” will appear on the report
- The microscopy interpretation key on the comment section will be removed
- Antimicrobial sensitivity results will be released on all significantly positive mid stream urine cultures irrespective of age
- Antimicrobial sensitivity results will be suppressed on catheter urines and those organisms normally considered not significant for the specimen type.



Celebrating International Nurses Day

On Tuesday 12 May the Trust marked International Nurses Day by sharing stories from our beloved nurses. Our nurses were also delighted to receive some lovely pictures and poems from the staff and children at Barrow's St George's C of E Primary and Nursery School hub which have been displayed in Children's Outpatients at Furness General Hospital.





Safe Space just got safer!

While set up to help Trust staff deal with workplace stress, the effects of Covid-19 are adding a huge emotional and physical challenge to all staff and other emergency responders such as ambulance, police, fire and rescue services. Safe Space was originally based in the FGH Chapel which can still provide a place to stop, feel safe and be able to let go. We know that for some this may not help if you are at home, are isolating or don't normally visit the hospital. So Safe Space is now available online! Simple call FGH Chaplaincy for details on 01229 403715.



Safe Space provides a room in the hospital chapel available at any time where you can find peace and stillness.



Safe Space provides short online guided mindfulness meditation sessions every Wednesday at 8.30am and 7.30pm.



Safe Space provides online mindfulness based support and mentoring to individuals using zoom, facetime or skype .

Provided by the chaplaincy service, Safe Space is a non-religious staff support service open to people of any faith and none.

Your Development Matters

Your development matters will spotlight innovative training, resources and research that may help with your professional development. This month we'd like to draw your attention to some free online courses to help keep your mind active, three videos on learning about Self-Compassion and a resource pack to support making our work places more compassionate. For more information [click here](#).

If you have any ideas for training or if you have followed up on any of these links then we'd like to hear from you. Please email helen.o'neil@mbht.nhs.uk

A helping hand for NHS workers

With the health service working tirelessly to help the UK respond to Coronavirus (COVID-19), Green Flag is providing free breakdown assistance to any NHS employees. You can find our more information here: <https://blog.greenflag.com/NHS-cover-announcement/>

COVID-19 convalescent plasma

NHS Blood and Transplant is looking for colleagues at the Trust to come forward who have recovered from Coronavirus (COVID-19) to donate convalescent plasma. The programme aims to transfuse the donated plasma to patients being treated for COVID-19 with the hope that the antibodies present may support the patient's immune response to recover from the virus. Convalescent plasma donations can be taken at 28+ days after hospital discharge or at 35+ days after having displayed COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolated and recovered.

Colleagues at the Trust who have had a positive antigen test and recovered or staff who have had increased exposure to COVID-19 can arrange to donate by calling 0300 123 23 23 and advising that they are an NHS worker. Details will then be passed to a dedicated COVID-19 convalescent plasma team where the offer of help will be prioritised. You can find out more information about the programme here <https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/how-you-can-help/convalescent-plasma-clinical-trial/> a [short video](#) is also available from the service's first convalescent plasma donor session to explain the importance of this programme.



Your Weekly NEWS

Have your say on the best use of our £35,000 award from NHS Charities Together

I am sure you are all aware of the national COVID-19 charity appeal from NHS Charities Together. While this appeal had already begun to gain momentum, it became front page news when the efforts of 99-year-old veteran Captain Tom Moore reached the spotlight. Proceeds from the appeal will fund new programmes to help our colleagues and volunteers recover fully once the crisis has abated, reducing the long-term impact on them and their families.

We are pleased to say that our charity for Morecambe Bay Trust, 'Bay Hospitals Charity', is a member of NHS Charities Together. This means that we will be eligible to receive grants and will receive a fixed amount from the appeal to use locally. The Executive team have decided that how this money is used should be decided by you: the staff and volunteers who work within the Trust. We have received an initial award of £35,000 but expect to receive further funds dependent on the success of the national appeal. We would love to hear your ideas, so please get in touch.

The budget holder for the scheme will be David Wilkinson, Director of People; and the project will be led by both Alasdair Boyle, Chairman of the local Trade Unions Forum, and Karmini McCann, Assistant Director of Workforce. Alasdair and Karmini will be supported by members of the Trust Joint Working Group and the Communications Team. If you have any ideas please contact either Alasdair on alasdair.boyle@mbht.nhs.uk or Karmini on karmini.mccann@mbht.nhs.uk.

Thanks

Alasdair Boyle (Chair of Staff Side)

Karmini McCann (Assistant Director of Workforce)

Community Support Bulletin

Lancaster Integrated Care Community has created a community support bulletin with useful contact information for support services in the community including mental health, NHS and Government Agencies and Foodbanks and clubs.

Information for the support services can be found at <https://www.uhmb.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/community-support-bulletin>

Please do share the community support bulletin with your colleagues.

Wearing masks

Do not leave masks hanging around your neck

Leave mask covering your nose and mouth

OR

Remove and dispose of immediately



Have you won the Bay Hospitals Charity Lottery this week?

This week's winning numbers are:

Draw date:

3 0 5 3 2 7

Play the Bay Hospitals Charity Lottery online now!

Visit www.bayhospitalscharity.org/lottery/

and help make a lotto difference across Morecambe Bay Hospitals.

