

Briefing for Elected Representatives

A newsletter from Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

Follow us on:



Visit us at: www.belfasttrust.hscni.net

16 April 2021

Minister Outlines Rebuild Plans for the Health Service

Health Minister Robin Swann has detailed his plans for the re-building of Northern Ireland's health service.

The Minister set out his ambitions for Health and Social Care over the April to June period and has stressed the need for sustained investment to deliver the plans.

Read more and find further plan details [here](#).



No Mix & Match with Covid-19 Vaccines

There can be no mixing and matching of Covid-19 vaccines. Whichever vaccine was administered first, must be followed up with the same.

The only exception is for the very small number of people who have an extreme reaction to the first dose.

Having the second dose of the vaccine will help give you stronger and longer protection from the virus?



Adults aged 40+ can book [here](#) now.

100,000 Vaccine Doses Administered by BHSCT

Last week we reached a significant milestone in the vaccination programme.



Our amazing staff will continue working hard delivering on the vaccination programme to help protect as many people as possible from Covid-19.

De-Escalation of HSC Nightingale at Belfast City Hospital



STATEMENT: The de-escalation of HSC Nightingale at the Belfast City Hospital is a significant milestone as we continue to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

All Covid-19 patients will continue to be cared for at the Mater Hospital as was the case in the summer of 2020 before the autumn surge necessitated increased critical care capacity. Belfast City Hospital will continue to provide care and treatment to patients across a range of specialties including Hematology and Renal services. It will also be necessary to maintain flexibility within the system to respond to any potential further surges of Covid-19.

The Belfast City Hospital will be a Covid minimal site and is being scaled up to undertake, complex, high-priority surgery, on behalf of the region, with protected green surgical pathways.

Surgery & Cancer Services



STATEMENT: Belfast Health and Social Care Trust would once again like to sincerely apologise to our patients, their families and carers for postponing some surgeries. We do not underestimate the anxiety and distress this is causing for our patients and we deeply regret this. Patients requiring surgical treatment or diagnostic surgery are being prioritised appropriately.

Our surgery and cancer teams are working hard to reschedule all postponed operations as soon as possible and they continue to stay in regular contact with patients to provide information, appropriate monitoring and ongoing support. Belfast Trust is still delivering unscheduled emergency surgeries, including where there is an immediate threat to life, as well as chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

All patients are monitored and prioritised to ensure emergency and urgent treatments are appointed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Due to ongoing pressures, waiting times for patients with a Red Flag suspected cancer status are longer than we would like. We understand that this is a very anxious time for all our patients and their families and would like to reassure them that as well as contact from their specialist nurse if appropriate, patients can access further information and support from the Belfast Trust Cancer Support service. This service is here to support patients and their families through all stages of their cancer experience. They work closely with our local charity partners, Macmillan, Friends of the Cancer Centre and Cancer Focus NI to bring help and support.

Anyone with concerns about new or changing cancer symptoms should contact their GP as soon as possible.

Orthopaedic Surgery Update

Orthopaedic Surgery has been running at a reduced capacity due to the pandemic and we are prioritising patients in most clinical need.

The only patients that we have capacity to treat at present are those deemed to require surgery within 4 weeks or risk irreversible damage or harm. These patients are identified from consultant waiting lists and then approved through a surgeon led multidisciplinary team meeting and an ethics committee prior to being listed for surgery.

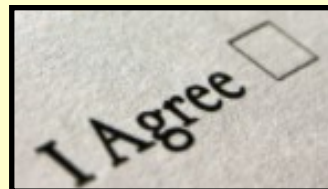


We are unable to provide an indicative date for elective Orthopaedic surgery to recommence at full capacity but will be contacting patients and ensuring our staff are providing the most updated information as we receive it. It is hoped that as the number of Covid positive patients within our hospital setting decreases, we will be able to establish more elective Orthopaedic theatre lists and create better access for patients waiting for Orthopaedic Surgery. This is currently being reviewed on a weekly basis.

Should your constituent consider their condition has deteriorated, they should contact their GP who will update the Trust accordingly.

Consent Forms

Are you using the correct consent form?



[This](#) is the one we accept.

All old forms have now been phased out.

Please replace any previous versions with this up to date one.

Check Here for Service Updates

Please remember to always check here for service updates.



We hope the information contained helps you to respond to constituency enquiries quickly, directly and without any need for consent.

If you would like to speak to a member of the Public Liaison Team please:-

Tel: (028) 9504 5888 or Email: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Wash your hands regularly



Keep your distance



Wear a face covering



Download the app StopCOVID NI

