

Briefing for Elected Representatives

A newsletter from Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

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23 April 2021

Trust Recalls 209 Neurology Patients

We have recalled a further 209 neurology patients in connection with the work of former consultant neurologist, Dr Michael Watt.



[Watch](#) what Dr Chris Hagan, Medical Director has to say. Plus, get the full press statement [here](#).

If you have constituents affected by this recall, they can contact us now on the number detailed below.

Neurology Patient Advice Line

0800 980 1100

Monday to Friday, 9am - 8pm

Same Location for both Covid-19 Vaccinations

PLEASE NOTE

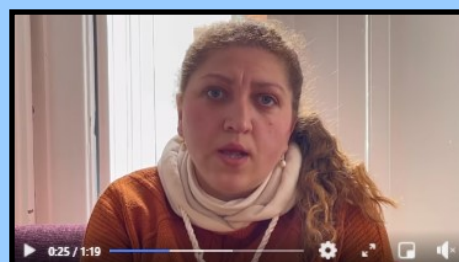
If you received your first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at the Royal Victoria Hospital Vaccination Centre, you should go to the **same location** for your second dose.

Please **do not** go to the SSE Arena for your second dose of vaccine unless you went there for your first dose.

Importance of Getting the Covid-19 Vaccine

Anita is a member of the Roma community in Belfast and has received her Covid-19 vaccination.

[Hear](#) Anita explain why she feels it's important you get your vaccination and where you can get reliable information.



Temporary changes to the Mater Hospital's Covid Intensive Care Unit

In the last few months the number of people admitted to hospital with Covid-19 has reduced significantly. The number of patients with Covid requiring intensive care has also steadily dropped. There are currently a small number of patients in Intensive Care (ICU) in Northern Ireland with Covid, and none currently in Belfast Trust.

We have always said that our plan to combat the pandemic needs to be agile and flexible and our staff are the very example of this. Contrary to what was anticipated, we are not experiencing or now expecting a significant increase in the number of Covid patients requiring ICU in the very near future. We are therefore, from Monday 26 April, able to temporarily stand down our Covid ICU in the Mater Hospital.

Our plan is flexible. Should we have 3 or more patients with Covid needing ICU and who are not under the care of one of the regional specialities in the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH), we will trigger the reinstating of the Covid ICU in the Mater. If there are less than 3 patients with Covid requiring ICU, we will care for them in ICU in the RVH. The Mater Hospital remains the primary hospital in Belfast Trust treating and caring for Covid patients. That is not changing.

The pandemic has taken a huge toll on our ability to provide surgery over the last number of months. By temporarily standing down the Mater's Covid ICU we are able to provide an ICU in Belfast City Hospital. This will enable us to ensure more patients who are waiting for urgent, complex surgery and oncology care with the need for ICU support will be treated. We will continue to work within the Critical Care Network for Northern Ireland (CCaNNI) and will keep our plan under continual review to meet the needs of the population who need ICU care.

The currently low number of Covid-19 hospital admissions is also indicative of how much effort has gone into combatting the disease across every aspect of society in Northern Ireland. We urge everyone to continue to follow public health advice: wash your hands frequently, wear a face covering, keep your social distance. And while we know the course of the pandemic is not yet over, we want take the time today to again thank our staff for their herculean efforts over the past year in the fight against Covid-19 and its ever changing landscape.

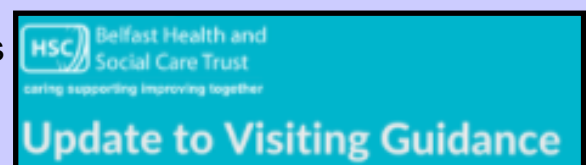
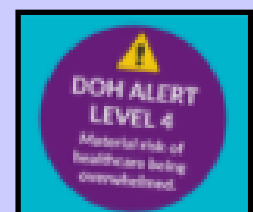
Current Visiting Guidance

The Department of Health confirmed changes to visiting arrangements for all care settings from Monday 1 March 2021.

Belfast Trust visiting arrangements continues to follow the Regional Principles of Visiting Guidelines.

Virtual visiting remains the preferred option as this reduces the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Read more [here](#).



NISTAR is One Year Old



The Northern Ireland Specialist Transport and Retrieval Nurse Led Team is a year old, and have been involved in some extraordinary work.

The genesis of the nurse led service was due to the growing demand on resources in facilitating cross-border transfers. These vital transfers allow critically ill children to receive lifesaving cardiac surgery as part of the All Island Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Network.

Prior to the launch of the CHD network, patients and their families would have to travel to Great Britain adding additional stress and strain. NISTAR are extremely proud of the positive impact this team is having on patients by facilitating these transfers

Click [here](#) to read more about the vital service the team provides.

Cancer Services E-Zine

Check out this month's cancer e-zine, which includes a service update, information on online classes & workshops, feedback, cancer awareness month, Action Cancer service update, staff support, what's been happening throughout the month and a chance to meet team members. Click [here](#) to view it now.

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

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