

# Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Daily briefing

Daily briefing – 26/03/2020

### Latest information and guidance for all GMMH staff

Dear colleague,

Today's briefing includes the latest information on PPE, an important update on patients' rights and some helpful research we could all take part in to support the response to the pandemic.

Today, I also want to focus on some of the fantastic, innovative work you are all doing. These extraordinary circumstances are challenging us in ways we never thought possible, but out of this we are learning of many instances of staff and volunteers delivering incredible acts of kindness, going the extra mile, adapting to new circumstances and developing imaginative but very effective ways of keeping our services going.

We want to capture and share these motivational and inspiring examples – not just to balance some of the challenging information we need to take in daily, but to remind ourselves we are part of a strong and resilient community who can support and connect with each other. The clear directive of working from home means we have a huge society of staff who are performing essential duties – albeit remotely – which are enabling the Trust to operate safely. This can lead to feelings of disconnection and isolation - especially if you are used to working with a team. However, we are going to work very hard to use all the channels available to us including social media, IM&T systems and briefings to help you feel connected and part of something incredibly important. We want this to be something you can rely on and feel supported by, as well as be able to contribute to and share your fantastic work and ideas.

We will keep you informed of how you can become more connected over the coming days and weeks so please keep an eye out and join in when you can.

As ever, thank you for all your efforts.

Take care,

Gill Green

Director of Nursing and Operations

### Update on Personal Protective Equipment

- We continue to work very hard on securing sufficient PPE stock for staff
- From today we have a dedicated PPE team working full time on this issue
- The team comprises of corporate and nursing staff and has support from IM&T and Business Intelligence to work through the logistic elements
- Deliveries are now running nationally on a 24/7 basis

## **COVID-19 and clothing and uniforms**

- Staff are understandably concerned about maintaining good hygiene with regard to their clothes or uniforms whilst working on ward areas
- We have developed some guidance attached to this briefing which you may find helpful
- As the situation evolves and if new guidance becomes available, we will issue further updates

## **Important changes to the Patients' Rights**

- Attached is some important guidance which highlight the changes to patients' rights during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The changes include relaxing the time periods for reading rights to ease pressure on our staff
- Please make sure you update yourself with this guidance and share with colleagues where possible

## **Good Information Governance Hygiene**

- Whilst we rightly concentrate on good hand hygiene, it is important to still observe good data and information management also
- Many of us are working from home or in different locations
- Please maintain files and confidential information as stringently as if you were at your physical place of work
- Please do not leave confidential information in places where non-members of staff can access/see it

## **Staff Health and Wellbeing**

- We continue to encourage you to use free our Occupational Health resource
- You can visit their website <https://login.pamassist.co.uk/home> (username GMMH password GMMH1) where you will find a wealth of online resources from online CBT to specific Covid-19 wellbeing related support
- You can call them on 0800 8824102
- This service is absolutely confidential and free to use
- Please also visit: <https://newintranet/coronavirus-staff-wellbeing> for an online resource of helpful information
- Please visit here for useful information such as NHS protected shopping times: <https://newintranet/trustnews/Pages/PriorityshoppinganddiscountsforNHStaff.aspx>

## **Online consultations**

- We are delighted to announce that our first online consultations with service users have been launched!
- A huge thank you to IM&T and our clinicians who worked so hard to get this fantastic system up and running
- Well done to all involved

## **COVID-19 Research**

- Guy's and St Thomas Biomedical Research Centre along with others have launched a COVID-19 research app
- You can take part in 1 minute daily self-reports which can help scientists identify high-risk areas in the UK, how fast the virus is spreading and who is most at risk
- This valuable research will help us beat COVID-19 quicker
- To take part and access the app, click here <https://covid.joinzoe.com>

Thank you