

Coronavirus update: Staff Message from Dr Chris Brookes, Group Chief Medical Officer

Dear colleague,

Late last night Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, confirmed that a third patient in England who tested for COVID-19 has sadly died. This patient was being treated and cared for at our specialist regional Infectious Diseases (ID) Unit at North Manchester General Hospital.

The man in his sixties tested positive after travelling to Italy and had a number of significant underlying health problems. Our condolences and thoughts are with the patient's family who are being supported by our specialist bereavement staff.

All policies and procedures to protect our staff and patients have been followed. There has been no risk to our hospital and healthcare staff.

Our specially trained staff who work on the ID unit and who work with patients confirmed with COVID-19 have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is to the highest standard.

Given our expertise and experience in dealing with infectious diseases, we've been asked to use our medical expertise and facilities at NMGH to help with the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Our ID unit is well prepared and has tried and tested measures for dealing with this type of outbreak. Our experienced, trained clinical staff will likely be treating more patients with the virus in the coming weeks. We will use our specially designed facilities to provide the very best care while keeping our staff, patients and visitors safe.

We would appreciate it if you, as representatives of the hospital, reassure our patients and visitors that there is no risk to them.

North Manchester General Hospital remains open and all services and appointments are running normally. Patients with appointments and those visiting relatives at the hospital should attend as normal. This includes our Infectious Diseases Unit and associated services.

Media and social media

Media presence around NMGH and our other sites is possible. We will not be allowing the media on-site and most definitely not inside our premises to film or interview our staff. However, the media may approach you outside the hospital grounds and try to contact wards and departments by phone.

Any media queries should be sent directly to our Communication team who will manage any media and liaise with NHS England and NHS Improvement.

Please respect patient confidentiality at all times and be cautious about using social media. If you do see any serious/concerning/inaccurate comments on social media, please do not engage directly in discussion and contact the Communication team.

Further information for staff

All information, guidance and latest updates in relation to our plans and response to Covid-19 (Coronavirus), including FAQs, is available on our Coronavirus staff intranet pages, [here](#). This can be found the intranet homepage. If you have any questions about the virus or any immediate concerns, please talk with your line manager.

On behalf of our executive team, thank you again for your role in adhering to our infection control measures and helping us as an organisation to plan and respond so well to this outbreak.

Dr Chris Brookes
Chief Medical Officer/Deputy CEO
Northern Care Alliance NHS Group