



Western Sussex Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

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Our Ref: GF/mf

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Sent via email to avoid delay

Dear MP

I am writing to update you on the operational arrangements at Worthing Hospital. I am happy to be able to report that the local situation has not changed in the last 24 hours. The colleagues and patients who came into close contact with the healthcare worker diagnosed with Covid-19 continue to follow Public Health England (PHE) advice and none has developed symptoms so far. We are in regular contact with all those colleagues and are doing all we can to look after them. We are working with PHE and their health is being monitored daily.

As we confirmed yesterday, our hospitals remain open for business as usual and we are encouraging patients to use our services as normal.

Anyone who has not been contacted directly by PHE does not need to be concerned. Their risk of developing Covid-19 is no greater than the wider population. We continue to maintain high cleanliness and infection control standards throughout our hospitals.

This morning we took delivery of our new assessment pods, which have been set up outside A&E at Worthing and St Richard's Hospitals. These have been distributed to every A&E across the country to provide a safe space to assess and test patients with Covid-19 symptoms to prevent them coming into contact with large numbers of staff or patients. While the public health advice is for anyone with symptoms to self-isolate and call 111, if patients do come into hospital, we can direct them to one of the pods and isolate them.

Infection control advice remains the same for staff and patients:

- Always carry tissues and use them to catch coughs or sneezes. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

We are extremely grateful to and proud of our colleagues for the resourcefulness, support, care and professionalism they have continued to exhibit throughout this period.

I hope this update provides you with some reassurance and the messages you need to be able to reassure others that our hospitals are open for business as usual. Unless anything changes, I will write to you again next week to keep you updated. If there is urgent news in the meantime, I will communicate it straight away.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Findlay', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr George Findlay
Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Chief Executive