

Issue 20 – 31 December 2020

## Latest news from Torbay and South Devon

We are sending you this update to keep you informed about Trust developments. Please feel free to share these updates amongst your networks. If you wish to unsubscribe, or you have been passed this update by someone else and you would like to subscribe please email: [communications.tsdf@nhs.net](mailto:communications.tsdf@nhs.net)

We are ensuring our website has the latest information on it so please do look there for the most up-to-date information [www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk](http://www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk). You can also keep up-to-date by following us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

### Modernising services in Coastal Locality – Consultation update

The Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Governing Body approved plans to modernise services in the Coastal Locality, following a formal public consultation in the autumn. The full paper that was considered by the Governing Body can be found on the [CCG website](#).

The new £8million Health and Wellbeing Centre is to be built by Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust in the heart of Teignmouth and is due to open in 2022. It will house GPs from Teignmouth's larger practice, Channel View Medical Group, the health and wellbeing team and Volunteering in Health. The Trust will run the centre with GP practices and we are now preparing to engage local people about the detailed design of the building on Brunswick Street. The engagement will run from 8-21 January. This will be done virtually using a dedicated website. We are also planning to run a webinar with the architects so that people can ask questions.

### Extraordinary nurses recognised in Torbay and South Devon

A nurse who works in Torbay Hospital's Emergency Department was honoured recently with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. The award is part of the international DAISY Foundation's mission to recognise the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care that is provided for patients and families every day.



The recipient, Christina Harrison, was nominated by Matron, James Merrell. James described Christina as “someone who consistently demonstrates a caring and compassionate attitude towards all patients within the Emergency Department, remaining non-judgmental and always putting the Trust values into action. Christina demonstrates true professionalism, compassion and courage as well as the core values that underpin nursing practice.”

Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues. The award recipient is chosen by a committee to receive The DAISY Award and awards are normally presented throughout the year at celebrations attended by colleagues, patients, and visitors.

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## Isolation period update

New guidance was recently published which reduces the isolation period from 14 to 10 days for people who are contacts of COVID-19. In certain settings, where people aged over 70 are concentrated, a more cautious approach is recommended, therefore the isolation period for patients, in care homes and hospital, who are contacts of COVID-19 remains at 14 days. This does not apply to care home and hospital staff who should follow the new isolation guidance of 10 days.

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## Update on NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme

This week's approval of a UK-developed and manufactured vaccine provides a major boost to plans to offer protection to those who would benefit most as quickly as possible, including health and care staff. The Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisation (JCVI) has said that both the Pfizer/BioNTech and the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine 'give very high protection against severe disease' and both have good safety records.

Updated guidance from Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), JCVI and the UK Chief Medical Officers has also been published to advise increasing the spacing of second vaccine doses for both the new Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and the current Pfizer BioNTech vaccine. This decision will allow the maximum benefit for the most people in the shortest possible time and will help save lives.

We are working on plans for Torbay Hospital to become a hospital vaccination hub very soon, adding to GP-run facilities which are already up and running in the Riviera Centre and Dawlish Community Hospital.

If you are in a priority group and haven't yet been invited for a vaccination, please don't worry: the NHS is working through patient lists in priority order, as set out in the national guidance, and will make contact with everyone who is eligible in due course. Local people are asked not to contact their practice or hospital to ask about an appointment – the NHS will contact you when it's your turn.

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## Lateral Flow Testing

We continue to offer our patient facing staff self-testing kits so that they can test themselves at home twice a week before coming to work. Anyone who has a positive result self-isolates and books a PCR (swab) test to either confirm the result or show that they are actually negative. The Lateral Flow Test is fairly accurate but can return a false positive, so it is important that anybody who does test positive does then have a test that is confirmed by the laboratory. The tests have proven valuable in identifying staff who do not have symptoms, but are actually COVID-19 positive. By testing this way, we are able to ensure they stay away from work. New guidance was issued just before Christmas for hospital trusts to introduce lateral flow testing in their maternity units, to enable pregnant women to have their partner with them for key appointments and scans, as well as for the birth of their baby.

## Watch our Trust's Carol Service

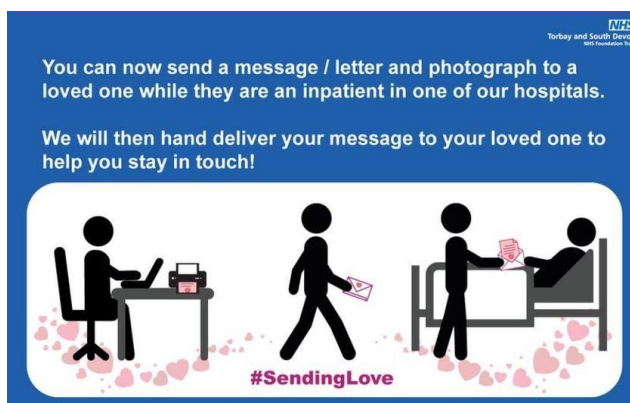
This year's carol service was held virtually on Friday 18 December. You can watch the carol service on the video below. We wanted to ensure that everyone who wishes to, gets a chance to watch and listen. The carol service includes traditional readings and carols, including one by our virtual hospital choir.

<https://www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/about-us/news-and-publications/news/2020/12/trust-carol-service-20504/>

## Keeping in touch with loved ones in hospital

We know just how important it is for friends and families to be able to keep in touch with a loved one whilst they are in hospital. Unfortunately, we have been unable to have normal visiting for much of this year due to needing to keep our patients and staff safe during the pandemic. However, we have continued to support visiting on compassionate grounds, which can be organised directly with the ward.

We have also been using a system known as 'Sending Love' for friends or family members to send patients message via our website, as well as enabling patients to see family or friends virtually, using the iPads that we have on every ward. If you would like to use this service to do this please contact the ward direct.



# Update

Helping people stay well, supporting those in need



**Torbay and South Devon**  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Public Health and NHS New Year message

A joint New Year message from Steve Brown, Director of Public Health at Devon County Council and Dr Rob Dyer, NHS Medical Director for Devon can be read here: <https://www.togetherfordevon.uk/a-difficult-year-with-hope-for-the-future/>

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## Follow the Trust on social media

Click on the icons to view our social media profiles. Please follow us to receive our latest updates in your social media news feeds. You will find personal and professional stories from our staff, our patients and news about your local services.



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**STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES**