

Issue 23 – 12 February 2021

## Latest news from Torbay and South Devon

We are sending this update to keep you informed about Trust developments. Please feel free to share this 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](#)

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## Call for people aged 70 and over to contact NHS for a COVID jab

People aged 70 and over who have not yet been vaccinated against COVID and who would like to be are today being asked to contact the NHS to arrange a jab. This can be done either by calling 119 or going to [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination).

Until now the NHS has asked people to wait until they are contacted to help ensure that those who are most vulnerable are protected first – and that remains the case for most people.

However, to ensure absolutely everyone is offered the vaccine, people aged 70 and over can now contact the NHS so they can be vaccinated by the middle of this month.

The easiest way to arrange a vaccination is through the national booking service which can be accessed at [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination).

The system allows patients to choose a time slot and location that suits them.

Anyone unable to book online can call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week.

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## Update on the Trust COVID-19 vaccination programme

The Trust has continued to make excellent progress to vaccinate our frontline and vulnerable health and care staff using the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. We are immunising Trust staff and also front line and vulnerable health and social care staff from partner organisations including Torbay Council, Devon County Council, Devon Partnership Trust and South West Ambulance.

## Planning ahead for winter and COVID-19 surge

We want to continue to assure local people that we have robust plans in place and are continuing to provide good and safe care during the pandemic. As part of these plans we are working with colleagues across the Devon area to provide mutual support where needed. You will be aware that the Nightingale Hospital in Exeter is a key part of our plans and patients are also being cared for there too.

We want to pay tribute to all our staff who are working incredibly hard during this time.

Please do continue to attend appointments unless you are told otherwise. And please use NHS services wisely. If you do have an emergency, life threatening crisis call 999 or attend the Emergency Department, don't delay. But if you need help but it is not life threatening please call 111 first and you will receive expert help and advice.

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## National lockdown

We are all under the national lockdown rules, and are urging everyone to stay at home as far as possible. If you need to visit one of our healthcare facilities, please be vigilant in continuing to follow the hands, face, space guidance.

Full information on the lockdown restrictions is available on the [government website](#)

HM Government

NHS

**STAY HOME  
PROTECT THE NHS  
SAVE LIVES**

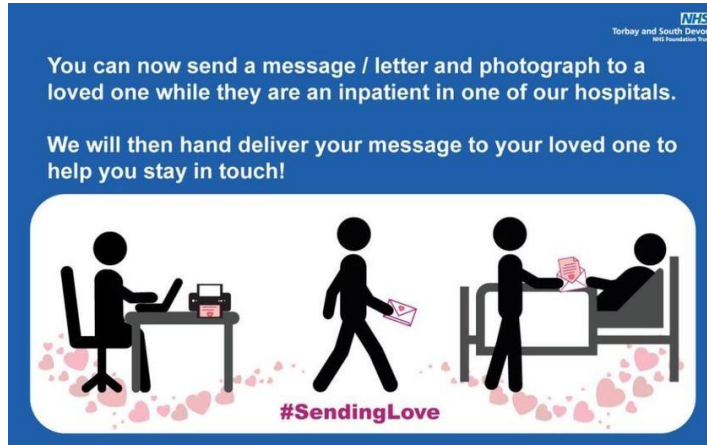
The new COVID-19 variant is spreading fast.  
We all need to play our part to stop the spread.

STAY HOME > PROTECT THE NHS > SAVE LIVES

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

## 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.

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## Virtual HOPE Programme for Postnatal Emotional Wellbeing

HOPE There are still have some spaces left on the Virtual HOPE Programme for Postnatal Emotional Wellbeing, starting on Tuesday, 2 March.

This is a free, six-week course and each weekly session will be running from 10am-12pm on Microsoft Teams. HOPE invite you to share, practice self-kindness and try a range of activities that can really empower you as a parent and as an individual to live more comfortably.

They will be using Microsoft Teams to deliver this course and to attend this course you will need access to the following:

- The Internet
- A Webcam and Speaker (usually these will already be installed on to your device)
- A PC, Laptop, Tablet or Smartphone

To find out more look [here](#)



## Contract awarded for Dartmouth Health and Wellbeing Centre

Following a competitive process, Classic Builders have been awarded a £4.1m contract to build the Dartmouth Health and Wellbeing Centre (H&WBC).

The new centre is a partnership project between the Trust, GPs, the CCG and the



voluntary sector to bring together in one centre all statutory organisations involved in providing health and care for the people of Dartmouth and surrounding area. The 'one-stop shop' approach will mean different professionals can work more closely together to provide better integrated services for local people.

Classic Builders was launched in 2001 and now has more than 80 staff based in Plymouth, Exeter and Cornwall. It has won several awards for quality and sustainability, including most recently, a national award for build quality on its PassivHaus Plus project in Seaton.

Steve Joy, Commercial Manager at Classic Builders commented: "We look forward to starting work on this important project for Dartmouth, and working with stakeholders to create a high quality centre that meets local needs."

Trust Governor for the South Hams, Dr Craig Davidson, said "We are just thrilled at the news of Classic Builders appointment to build our Health and Wellbeing Centre and look forward to an imminent start of construction".

If all goes to plan, the new building should be ready to open in summer 2022.

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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.

