

Issue 25: March 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

Future editions will be sent out on the first Friday of each month.

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. You can also keep up-to-date by following us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

COVID-19 Information Update

We are seeing COVID-19 cases continue to fall which is allowing us to reduce the capacity we have had to make for people who are unwell with the virus. We are now able to step back up more and more services. However, COVID is still in communities and we must continue to be vigilant and continue to ensure social distancing, mask wearing and good hand hygiene. Please remember this when you visiting any of our sites.

Please visit our [COVID-19 information page](#) to see the latest information. If you are having difficulty contacting a specific service or ward, or locating a family member in hospital, please contact our switchboard on 0300 456 8000.

Update from the NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter

The NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter was established in the early days of the pandemic, providing hope during uncertain times and ensuring that we had capacity to support our patients across the region. Throughout the pandemic, the hospital has played an invaluable role, providing care for people with COVID-19 and access to important diagnostic tests, as well as hosting overseas nurse training and a vaccine trial.

It has been decided that the time is now right to stand the NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter down - this means that the facility will no longer be used to care for patients with COVID-19, as due to the reduced numbers of COVID-19 inpatients, we can manage this demand within our local hospitals. From 1 April 2021, the COVID-19

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care that the NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter provided will transition back to our local hospitals. It will leave behind a legacy of system-wide working, with organisations coming together across our hospital network to manage the demand for COVID-19 care and support NHS organisations across the South West region. Discussions are now underway to maintain a long-term service at the site, continuing the hospital's legacy and supporting care in the region.

It is recognised that these efforts would not have been possible without the many staff, partners and volunteers involved who worked tirelessly to support the Nightingale, and this includes a number of staff from our own Trust.

"I didn't even feel the needle go in!" - A message from Devon on getting the Coronavirus vaccine

- A new film, launched by the NHS in Devon, highlights the positive experiences of patients, volunteers and staff across the county's vaccination centres.
- You can watch the film here
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wu141dJY7cQ>

The film aims to reassure people about both having the vaccination and the process of attending a centre. It encourages others to take up the opportunity when they are invited.

Torbay Hospital Chapel to resume Sunday services

The Trust Chaplaincy team plan to restart Sunday Services in the Chapel on Palm Sunday, 28 March (local COVID-19 infection rate dependant). The team will ensure that all IPC and social distance is observed as well as following the Church of England's protocols for Communion.

Roadmap out of Lockdown

From Monday 8 March, the roadmap out of lockdown began, but we are still in national lockdown.

We need to stay COVID-19 safe and keep our cases down to make it to the next step. Remember #HandsFaceSpace.

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All restrictions remain, except:

- Schools and colleges have opened with regular testing for staff and pupils.
- Wrap around provision is able to operate for all children as normal. Parents and carers will need to check with individual schools and providers for specific offers.
- Care home visits are allowed with one nominated & tested visitor.
- Outdoor recreation as well as exercise is allowed as a household/bubble, and with one person outside your household/bubble.

Have you had your vaccinations? - Take the survey

This winter we saw the highest uptake of the flu vaccination that Devon has ever seen.

Alongside this, over the last three months, the UK started to roll out the biggest vaccinations programme in the history of the NHS, which has seen well over 20 million people receiving the COVID vaccination and about half a million people from Devon.

NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) wants to understand your reasons for getting vaccinated against flu, Covid-19 or both. Your feedback will help them understand what motivates people to have the vaccines, what concerns people have and the work they need to do to address these concerns.

Your feedback will also directly inform the further rollout of the COVID vaccination programme, the NHS's evaluation of last winter's flu campaigns, and also planning for next winter.

All responses are anonymous.

You can find out more about how your data is used on the NHS Devon CCG website [here](#)

Please take 5 minutes to complete this short survey and feel free to share it with your friends, family, colleagues, community groups or networks.

[Please complete this survey by 26 March 2021.](#)

Asymptomatic community testing now available in Newton Abbot

Newton Abbot has been added to the list of stops for our new mobile community testing centres.

The service, which offers rapid tests for people without symptoms, with results available within the hour, will be at Teignbridge Depot Car Park on the Brunel Industrial Estate

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Update

Helping people stay well, supporting those in need



Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

between 8.30am and 5.30pm every Friday. And from Sunday 21 March it will also visit the town's Cattle Market every Sunday.

If you are a carer, a member of a household or support bubble with school-aged children or you leave the house to work or volunteer, we encourage you to take these quick and simple tests twice a week to identify whether you are carrying the virus and potentially unknowingly giving it to others. If you test positive you'll need to isolate immediately to break the chain of transmission.

In the Devon County Council are mobile testing vans already stop in Axminster, Exmouth, Honiton, Ivybridge, Okehampton and Tavistock and there are also fixed community testing sites at County Hall in Exeter, the Civic Centre in Barnstaple, and the Exe Valley Leisure Centre in Tiverton. [You can find out more and book a test via our website.](#)

Think 111 First

We know it can be difficult to know what to do and how to get the best help and treatment when you or a loved one are feeling unwell or suffered and injury. But if it is not a life-threatening emergency please do call 111 or got www.111.nhs.uk first where you can get quick expert advice.



CLICK OR CALL 111 FIRST

Feeling ill or injured, but it's not life-threatening?
Not sure where to turn?

If you think you need to go to A&E, call 111 first or visit 111.nhs.uk
Get the care you need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Protect others, protect the NHS, think 111 first



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Government targets false vaccine information on social media

The government has launched a new social media campaign to tackle misleading and false COVID-19 vaccine information being shared through private message channels.

Spreading false information about the coronavirus vaccine is dangerous, so it's important to [follow the SHARE checklist](#):

- Check - is it coming from an expert?
- Look closely - does the information seem trustworthy?
- Still unsure? Don't share it

The campaign is fronted by trusted local community figures such as imams, pastors and clinicians in [short, shareable videos](#) which include simple tips on how to spot misinformation and what to do to stop its spread, signposting to the NHS for the best source of information.

It's being supported by the world's biggest social media companies and has been created following concerns from the [Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies \(SAGE\)](#) of low vaccine uptake amongst ethnic minority communities.

A recent [Ofcom study](#) also showed that people from a minority ethnic background were twice as likely as white respondents to rely more on people they know, people in their local area or people on social media for information about coronavirus.

[The full toolkit](#), with content designed to be shared via WhatsApp and Facebook community groups, as well as Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, is available on the government's website.

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.

