



A summary of Barnsley Hospice’s response to Covid-19

How we’re managing risk to protect patients, families, staff and volunteers in a Covid-secure environment

At Barnsley Hospice, our highest priority is the safety of those we care for, our employees, volunteers and visitors.

In considering how to ensure our hospice spaces are as safe as possible for everyone during the Coronavirus pandemic, we’ve undertaken a detailed risk assessment for every area of activity.

We’ve rigorously addressed the inherent risks of infection transmission we are all facing at this time and put controls and mitigations in place.

Our detailed ‘Covid-19 Generic Risk Assessment’ has been passed by our Hospice Executive Team and Hospice Board who are both satisfied that the actions we have taken are an adequate response to the exceptional circumstances we face and that the processes we have in place minimise the risks of Covid-19 infection for patients, families, the public, our employees and volunteers.

A summary of our response to the coronavirus is below:

Our focus	Our actions
Patients – in our inpatient unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Our care for patients in our inpatient ward follows robust clinical policies and practices through which we maintain a comprehensive infection control regime *This has been stepped up to address the particular risk of Covid-19 infection and to safely manage the care of any Covid-19 positive patients *Measures include increased hygiene procedures, the wearing of PPE and more rigorous infection-control working practices *See also measures being taken in respect to visitors to the ward.
Visitors – to our inpatient unit	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *carry out pre-arrival screening and liaison through a visitor questionnaire and one-to-one discussion * arrange timed and time-limited visitor slots for restricted numbers to ensure safety and fairness of access for all *take the temperature of each visitor to the inpatient ward *provide PPE plus guidance on application, removal and disposal * provide clear guidance on social distancing and safe movement while in the hospice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *ensure adequate hygiene and sanitisation facilities are available *provide clear signage and guidance to support Covid-safe practices in the hospice *liaise directly with each patient, their family and loved ones on a case-by-case basis.
Service users – in our day therapy unit and clinics	*All patient services, other than inpatient hospice care, are suspended and support where possible is being delivered online and over the telephone. We will review this in line with Government guidelines and local circumstances.
Visitors to non-clinical areas of the hospice	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *reduce non-essential visitors eg contractors to a minimum following government guidelines and local conditions *provide clear guidance on social distancing, face-covering and safe movement while in the hospice *ensure adequate hygiene and sanitisation facilities are available *provide clear signage and guidance to support Covid-safe practices whilst in the hospice.
Employees	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *ensure that appropriate staff testing is available *provide adequate PPE or other protection where close contact with patients is required *ensure adequate hygiene and sanitisation facilities are available *provide clear guidance, messaging and signage to support Covid-safe working practices *support non-clinical employees to work from home where possible *ensure those at work can follow social distancing rules and avoid exposed contact *keep those who are vulnerable or shielding away from the hospice *be vigilant to ensure those with suspected or confirmed Covid-19 self-isolate *ensure those returning to work are risk-assessed, supported and given clear guidance *offer wellbeing support to those suffering adverse effects including mental health *provide regular updates from the CEO and the hospice management team.
Volunteers – at the hospice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Currently this is suspended *We will keep in regular contact with all our volunteers and inform them when it is safe to return.
Staff, volunteers and visitors at our retail hub (when open)	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *provide clear guidance on social distancing, face covering and safe movement while in the hospice *ensure adequate hygiene and sanitisation facilities are available

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">*provide clear signage, messaging and guidance to support Covid-safe practices*ensure donated items are handed over whilst maintaining social distancing, and are isolated for three days before sorting*support retail hub staff as hospice-based staff
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Our risk assessment and the above policies and practices are now in place and will be reviewed on at least a monthly basis, and in response to any new government guidelines, local conditions and other changing circumstances.

Barnsley Hospice Chief Executive Julie Ferry

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