

Public Update – Friday 13 November

Visiting Restrictions

Visiting to our hospital is restricted to help tackle the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect both our patients and our staff.

We will not allow any visitors to our hospital, with the following exceptions:

- **Maternity** – one birth partner only. Strictly no children. More details can be found on <https://www.mkuh.nhs.uk/news/update-on-maternity-visiting-restrictions>.
- **Paediatrics** – one parent/guardian only. Strictly no siblings.
- **Patients who require carer support** – where patients require the support of a carer, please discuss this with the nurse in charge of the ward so special arrangements can be made.
- **Patients at the end of life** – we know that you are very worried about your loved one as we face this national emergency together. We will try to allow visiting for a patient who is nearing the end of their life if possible and the decision for this will be down to the nurse in charge of the ward. The number of people who can visit will be limited and they will have to be prepared to wear personal protective equipment during their visit.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Contacting patients

Should you need to make contact regarding your loved one, then please call the ward direct or call the main switchboard on 01908 660033.

Virtual visiting

Where possible, our wards will try and set up a video call with a patient and even supply with a device to do so. Please ask the ward if you would like to do this.

Email a letter and photos to your loved one

Milton Keynes University Hospital has launched a new email service for families and friends which can be used to send letters and photographs to patients.

During this time, when you are not able to visit your loved one in hospital, you may wish to email them a letter and one or two photographs.

To do this, please email us at letterstolovedones@mkuh.nhs.uk attaching your letter and photograph(s). **Please also provide your loved one's date of birth and full name.**

Upon receipt, we will print out your letter and laminate any photographs and deliver them to your loved one.

If you have any questions about emailing a letter or if you need any help, please call our PALS

team on 01908 995954.

Our visiting restrictions for Maternity have been reviewed by the Trust. Birth partners of antenatal and postnatal inpatients will be able to visit for two hours a day. For more information on maternity visiting, please see <https://www.mkuh.nhs.uk/news/update-on-maternity-visiting-restrictions>.

Help control COVID-19

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms (which are: a high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of taste / smell), use the NHS 111 online or telephone service. Please do not visit your GP, the Hospital or a pharmacy unless it is a medical emergency.

Vaccine trials

Could you join more than 1,400 people in Milton Keynes who have signed up to be contacted about NHS COVID-19 vaccine studies they could take part in? Anyone aged 18 and over can sign up at <http://www.nhs.uk/researchcontact>.

Christmas gifting

Covid-19 has certainly changed a lot of things this year, and Christmas at Milton Keynes University Hospital will be no exception, with all toy and gift drops on hold for 2020.

We have instead created a new virtual way to give a gift to patients in hospital this Christmas, as well as staff.

It's really quick and easy to give a gift, simply visit <https://amzn.to/3oNSKI1> to pick an item from our Christmas wish-list.

You can also make a donation to the ward or department of your choice by visiting www.mkhcharity.org.uk if you'd prefer!