

COVID-19 secure: Helping us stay safe and well

Cromwell Hospital - Summary Risk Assessment

What is the hazard

- COVID-19 is an infectious disease. Most people that are infected will experience mild to moderate symptoms. For older people, those with certain underlying health conditions and some vulnerable groups, the symptoms can be much more severe.

Who might be harmed

- COVID-19 is a novel virus and information about how it behaves is still evolving. The virus can affect anybody. It spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19.

What are we doing to control the risk

- Our priority is to keep our people and patients safe.
- We formed a crisis management team at the outset of the pandemic to monitor, assess and agree controls across the hospital.
- We've carried out COVID-19 risk assessments and produced policies and procedures to reduce risks including robust screening criteria for all patients.
- There is a clear process around isolation at the point of symptoms and we have set up a staff testing hub to help people return to work.
- We formed specialist working groups to review the latest health advice and emerging evidence to ensure our working practices and safety precautions are updated and communicated.
- We have reduced our scope of activities to meet Public Health England Guidelines
- Access to the hospital is strictly controlled with all unnecessary footfall reduced. All patients, visitors and staff are temperature checked on arrival to the hospital.
- We encourage our people to work from home where possible and have made sure they have everything they need.

- We've enhanced our cleaning regimes, introduced social distancing measures, provided the correct personal protective equipment and strengthened infection control procedures.
- We are providing surgical masks to be worn by all staff, patients and consultants in areas of the hospital where 2 metre social distancing cannot be adhered to.
- We've created a dedicated webpage to ensure our people have the most up to date information on the measures we're taking to help keep our workplaces safe.
- We've captured feedback from our people to build our plans and address concerns and anxieties about coming into the workplace.
- We've provided financial and mental health support to our people and look to protect those who are the most vulnerable.

What further action are we taking

- We continue to risk assess the situation based on the latest government and public health guidance.
- We continue to review external and internal measures, update policies, processes and information to ensure our people are safe and informed of the controls in place.
- We are phasing the reopening of our office site and capping the number of people on site to ensure social distancing and infection control measures can be maintained.
- We will continue to follow clinical guidance to ensure our people and our patients are protected as much as we can when attending our hospital.
- We'll continue to review all learnings and the latest government guidance and will inform our people about any changes as the situation evolves.