

## **COVID 19 Advice for Specialist Nurses Organ Donation and Specialist Requestors**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

We want to assure you that we are continuing to monitor the Coronavirus situation and are working with the government and Public Health England (PHE) to react to this outbreak. This bulletin is intended to support you in your role and to answer any questions you may have. We intend to update this as the situation evolves.

The information is changing frequently so for up-to-date guidance please follow the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

### **COVID-19 case detection for hospital admissions**

New COVID-19 infections have been diagnosed in cases without any epidemiological links to high risk areas. To detect cases admitted to hospital at the earliest opportunity, routine testing of patients admitted to hospital with any of the following: influenza like illness, acute respiratory distress syndrome or pneumonia, is now in place.

### **General Advice regarding Embedded / Base Hospital Role**

#### **1. Infection Control**

Standard infection control measures should be followed. All SNODs are asked to follow the infection control procedures as per usual practice and as per the practice of the unit you are in for day-today and on-call activities. We would advise that all SNODs/SRs to get FIT tested on your unit if possible. The information around Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) can be found in the link below, please refer to Section 9 for specific details on PPE.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wn-cov-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance>

#### **2. Non-Clinical Duties**

- We would advise that SNODs limit un-necessary movement e.g. going from Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to ICU and hospital to hospital for non- critical activity. Work in own embedded unit/hospital. If SNODs are covering several units/hospitals, the specific unit/hospital allocation will need to be discussed and agreed by your team manager. We should endeavour to do all we can to maintain the PDA.
- We would classify on call clinical work (Donor referral and donor facilitation) as business-critical duties. If SNODs are covering a number of Units, the specific unit allocation will need to be discussed and agreed by the Team manager.

- If your embedded unit has patients that have **tested COVID 19 positive or are awaiting test results and the patient is in respiratory isolation** attend the unit as normal practice and follow the ICU's PPE protocols.
- If you are unable to work in your embedded Hospital for any of the above, then work from NHSBT office in the first instance or home. Discuss the most appropriate course of action with your team manager.
- Please consider wearing hospital scrubs rather than NHSBT uniforms if moving from hospital to hospital (for example in the case of specialist requesters).
- Keep your manager informed of activity in the scenarios outlined in this document.

### 3. Referrals of patients who are confirmed COVID 19 positive / test result awaited

The information relating to COVID is changing and we now know that the situation in all countries is changing rapidly. Please be vigilant and check travel history thoroughly as you are doing, including airports transits as previously communicated.

For up-to-date guidance please follow the link below;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

Patients without any history of travel to specified areas may have been infected following close contact with persons who were subsequently diagnosed with COVID19. Please continue to perform a thorough patient assessment.

- Referral of a patient who is **confirmed COVID 19 positive**:
  - Do **NOT** progress this referral.
- Referral of a patient who has been **tested and results are awaited**:
  - Do **NOT** progress the referral until a negative result is received

### 4. Referrals of patients who do not have COVID 19 (not been tested)

Proceed with donor assessment and donor characterisation as per usual practice. Standard infection control measures should be followed. All SNODs are asked to follow the infection control procedures as per usual practice and as per the practice of the unit you are in for on-call activities

If there are other patients on the unit confirmed COVID 19 positive, or possible cases COVID 19 who are awaiting results, please complete the checklist and escalate to the Regional Manager on call.

**Please ensure we respect the confidentiality of all patients on the ICU.**