

SALISBURY DISTRICT HOSPITAL SERVICES September 2020

The overall prevalence of COVID-19 in South Wiltshire remains low but there is risk of local spikes of infection as people move around more freely after lockdown and during the holiday season.

If you have attended Salisbury Hospital, you will have seen changes to the hospital designed to ensure a safe environment for patients, visitors and staff. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please do not attend your appointment.

If you feel that you are seriously unwell, please call 111 or, in an emergency, call 999. If you think your condition is deteriorating, or you are experiencing increasing pain, please contact your GP.

WAITING LISTS & PRIORITISATION

In March, all hospitals were instructed by NHS England to temporarily cancel non-urgent outpatient appointments and routine surgery so as to be able to maintain services for urgent treatments, whilst freeing up capacity for the expected surge in COVID-19 patients.

The hospital has now restarted some non-emergency services and our clinicians have reviewed all waiting lists very carefully to prioritise patients dependent on the state of their health. This means that those with the greatest need will be seen first.

If you were on a Salisbury District Hospital waiting list before the COVID-19 outbreak, you will still be on the same waiting list unless *you* have been contacted to advise you differently. However, it is likely that waiting times will be longer than usual and we are sorry for this and for any worry this may cause you.

Many services are now open and alternative ways to see patients have been introduced. For example, video and telephone consultations where it is clinically appropriate to do so. These and other measures are helping the hospital to provide the care patients need and also help hospital staff to work through waiting lists as quickly as possible.

When it's time for you to come for your appointment or procedure, the hospital will get in touch with you. Thank you for your patience while staff work hard to safely restore hospital services.

Video links

The Trust has produced a number of videos for the public and patients – links to these are below:
Help Us to Help You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViY2Uld1p40>

*This message is from the elected governors for South Wiltshire Rural -
Mr William Holmes, Dr Jennifer Lisle, Mr Tony Pryor-Jones, Dr James Robertson*