

Information sheet for hospital inpatients during a COVID-19 outbreak



Version 1.0 12.11.2020

Dear patient

At the moment there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in this hospital. An outbreak means that the virus that causes COVID-19 has spread between a number of people in the hospital. The details of the wards where we have a problem at the moment and how many people are affected changes from day to day. Hospital staff will answer any questions you have about the situation today.

When the virus spreads in a hospital it infects both patients and hospital staff. We understand that it is worrying for you to know there is an outbreak in the hospital. We want you to know that we are doing everything in our power to stop the spread of the virus as quickly as possible.

Since the start of the pandemic this hospital has put many measures in place to try to keep the virus from spreading in the hospital. One of those measures is trying to find people who have infection as early as we can. To help us do this you will be asked questions to check if you have developed symptoms of COVID-19 and you may be tested for COVID-19 more than once. The reason you may be tested more than once is because we know that even with the best technology in the world a single test result cannot prove you don't have COVID-19. We know that having the test can be a bit uncomfortable for some people so thank you for your patience and support.

Even with all these measures in place it is very hard to keep this virus fully under control all the time. We are now taking extra measures because of the outbreak and we are asking you to help us.

How can you help us keep everyone safe?

Please stay in your room or bed-space as much of the time as you can.

Clean your hands regularly with the hand gel on the ward.

Wear a mask when you are outside of your room or away from your bed-space. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask all the time please let staff know and they will give you a mask to wear.

Don't share personal items with other patients.

There will be no visiting except on critical or compassionate grounds.

If at any time you get a temperature or a cough, if you feel you are getting more short of breath please tell a nurse or a doctor.

It's OK to remind staff to clean their hands.

It's OK to tell a staff member if you see anything that is not clean.

Further information

You can get further information on COVID-19 at www.hse.ie/coronavirus and information on hand hygiene at www.hse.ie/infectioncontrol

Please talk to any of our staff at any time if you have any questions or concerns during your time at your hospital.