

COVID-19 Security at St Luke's Hospice – how we're managing the risks

At St Luke's the safety of those we care for and work with is our highest priority.

In considering how to ensure our spaces are safe for everyone during the Coronavirus pandemic, we've undertaken a detailed risk assessment for each location or situation where we undertake activities. We've addressed the inherent risks across these 11 categories, and assessed the expected effectiveness of the controls and mitigations that we've put in place.

At 30 June 2020, the Executive and Board of St Luke's were satisfied that the actions we have taken are an adequate response to the exceptional circumstances we face, and that the plans we continue to follow minimise the risks of COVID-19 infection for patients, families, the general public, our employees and volunteers.

The risk assessments have been and continue to review on at least a monthly basis to ensure they address changes in the national rating, government guidelines, local conditions and other changing circumstances. This statement is reviewed annually or when there are legislative changes.

In particular, our response covers the following areas:

For employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In line with new legislation effective early 2022 it will be mandatory for all patient-facing workers to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19• Weekly PCR and Lateral Flow Tests undertaken by employees working at the hospice and weekly Lateral Flow Tests for employees in other locations• Working from home where appropriate• Undertaking full risk assessments and adjustments for anyone previously in the vulnerable or shielding category returning into the workplace• Being vigilant to ensure those suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 self-isolate (and do so for the household bubble), and for key workers make testing available• Ensuring those at work can follow social distancing rules and avoid exposed contact• Providing adequate PPE or other protection where close contact is inevitable or cannot be avoided• Ensuring that adequate hygiene and sanitisation facilities are available• Providing clear signage, messaging and guidance to support COVID-safe practices• Ensuring those returning to work are risk-assessed, supported and given clear guidance• Offering wellbeing support to those suffering adverse effects
For volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertaking full risk assessments and adjustments for anyone previously in the vulnerable or shielding category returning into the workplace• Ensuring those who wish to return to volunteering are screened, supported and given clear guidance• Ensuring that adaptations allow for social distancing and the avoidance of exposed contact• Providing adequate PPE or other protection where close contact is inevitable or cannot be avoided

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that adequate hygiene and sanitisation facilities are available • Providing clear signage, messaging and guidance to support COVID-safe practices • Maintaining supportive contact with those suffering adverse effects
For visitors to clinical spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing pre-arrival screening and timed slots • Providing PPE with guidance on donning and doffing • Maintaining social distancing with staff and other visitors, and offering safe movement around the building • Ensuring that adequate hygiene and sanitisation facilities are available • Providing clear signage, messaging and guidance to support COVID-safe practices
For visitors, customer and donors to non-clinical spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing clear signage, messaging and guidance to support COVID-safe practices • Ensuring that adequate hygiene and sanitisation facilities are available • Maintaining social distancing with staff and other visitors, and offering safe movement around the building

The care of our patients follows clinical policies and practices and we maintain a comprehensive infection control regime which incorporates avoidance of COVID spread and the safe management of COVID positive patients.

Peter Hartland

Chief Executive

18 Nov 2021