

Email to the leader of the MCC and Councillors Kilpatrick, Leech, Stanton, Simcock, Wilson, Moore, Wills, Chambers, Bridges, Reeves

14<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Richard,

I wanted to keep you updated on The Christie in the current NHSE level 4 Covid19 incident. We have been making arrangements to support cancer patients during the pandemic, not just for those patients who we would usually care for, but also in support of patients from across Greater Manchester. Details explaining this including information for patients about their care, addressing questions they may have and how to get in touch with services are available on our website <https://www.christie.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/your-treatment-and-care/coronavirus-information>.

In addition to this I wanted to update you on activities at the Christie Withington Hospital site. We have made a number of changes, necessary to protect patients and reduce their risk from COVID19 whilst we are looking after them. We have a detailed screening process in place now for all patients that need to attend the Christie. This includes a pre-attendance screening telephone assessment. For those patients who need to attend, clinical screening at our Wilmslow Road entrance is carried out. Patients are only admitted to the hospital following this assessment. Patients are not allowed to be accompanied except in special circumstances. There is also no access for visitors unless in special circumstances, and this being pre arranged with the Clinical staff.

We have also restricted access to the hospital. Only those essential staff who are working hard to deliver front line clinical and supporting activities for our patients are attending the site. We have arrangements in place for other staff including administrative research and education activities being delivered away from the site. Restricted access staff only entrances are on Oak Road and Palatine Road away from our patient entrance. We have also suspended parking charges for both our patients and staff.

We have some accelerated activity underway by our estates and contractor teams. The main focus of these activities has been the fitting out of an area above our Proton centre, which will provide expansion space for Cancer patients with Covid19 requiring inpatient care. We expect this to be available [on 30th April](#). In addition to this we have contractors continuing to work on the foundation ground work of our Paterson development. This is essential work required to make the site stable and safe between Wilmslow Road and our Critical Care building. We also have some work going on to make good the ground on our Kinnaird Road car park, that was disrupted in preparation for the construction of tiered car parking. This will be used for additional parking capacity. We have delayed the tiered car park construction for a period of 12 months during the current pandemic emergency. This has allowed us to have front line clinical staff parking on site for the duration of the emergency. We have been in liaison with Manchester City Council colleagues about these changes and have also reinforced the need for our contractors to maintain social distancing and be sensitive to our neighbours.

Our current situation in the hospital so far is that we have tested a number of patients currently undergoing cancer treatment for Covid19. 52 patients have been found positive and we are looking after approximately 10 as inpatients with 2 in our intensive care unit and sadly 5 of our patients with Covid19 have died. We have also started acting as a cancer hub for patients from across Greater Manchester particularly with Acute Haematology and Surgical cancers who need urgent time critical treatment, as well as our radiotherapy and chemotherapy patients.

I hope this provides you with an update from the Christie and our management of the coronavirus pandemic. If you need to direct anybody with patient concerns, our website is the best starting point, it also has contact numbers for further assistance. If you have any other questions that I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Roger Spencer  
Chief Executive  
[www.christie.nhs.uk](http://www.christie.nhs.uk)