



# Media release

2 April 2020

For immediate release

## **Newark Urgent Care Centre suspends overnight opening due to Coronavirus pressures**

As part of Sherwood Forest Hospitals' NHS FT response to Covid-19, the Urgent Care Centre at Newark Hospital will be temporarily closed between 10pm and 9am from Monday 6 April.

The overnight closure is scheduled to last for three months initially, and the Urgent Care Centre will return to its current operating model once it is safe to do so, when the Coronavirus pandemic pressures reduce.

The Urgent Care Centre will remain open and operating as usual from 9am until 10pm, allowing for walk-in patients to attend for urgent care needs.

Richard Mitchell, Chief Executive for Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS FT said:

“We did not take this decision lightly, but this is a planned move in order for us to maintain a safe level of staffing and to focus colleagues where we need them the most during this challenging time. This decision was taken with the full agreement of clinical colleagues. We know the number of patients we see overnight at Newark is low, and this change will help us centralise our colleagues to make sure we can give the best care possible to the patients that will need it the most during the unprecedented challenge of coronavirus.

“I would like to reassure colleagues and patients that the Newark Urgent Care Centre will return to its current overnight hours once we are able to do so.”

“In the meantime we continue to urge all of our community to follow the Government's Stay Home, Save Lives message to help tackle the spread of the virus.”

Anyone who needs urgent care between 10pm and 9am is asked to attend their next nearest Urgent Care facility or to access NHS111 online or over the phone for advice.

Do not go to your GP, pharmacy or hospital if you have symptoms associated with coronavirus. Instead you should stay at home for at least 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature and/or
- a new continuous cough.

If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms.

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We would like to thank you for your co-operation and support in helping us limit the spread of coronavirus.

**Ends**

**Notes to editors**

## **Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Sherwood Forest Hospitals is an award winning NHS Foundation Trust providing acute healthcare services for 420,000 people across Mansfield, Ashfield, Newark, Sherwood and parts of Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. We employ 4,500 people across our three hospital sites - King's Mill, Newark and Mansfield Community, and we also run some services from Ashfield Community Health Village.

In August 2018 we were awarded a Good rating by the CQC with the caring domain rated Outstanding. Our sepsis care, mortality rates, stroke services and maternity services compare very well. But don't take our word for it – 84% of our inpatients rated their overall experience as good and our staff satisfaction for the quality of care they provide is fourth best for acute NHS Trusts. Nine out of ten staff would recommend us as a place to receive care and eight out of ten as a place to work.

In our busy hospitals last year we had 412,000 outpatient attendances, 102,000 people attending the King's Mill Emergency Department and more than 21,000 patients were seen and treated at the Urgent Care Centre at Newark Hospital.

In addition we are working closely with partners in health and social care through the Mid Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership to take collective responsibility for managing resources, delivering NHS standards, and improving the health of the population we serve.

- Website: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sherwoodforesthospitals](https://www.facebook.com/sherwoodforesthospitals)
- Twitter: [@SFHFT](https://twitter.com/SFHFT)
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