

Infection Prevention and Control Team

Dear visitor

There are currently patients on the ward/unit who have upper respiratory tract infection/influenza like illness symptoms.

The cause of this infection is being fully investigated by the Infection Prevention and Control Team and viral swabs have been sent to identify the causative organism.

If the viral swabs confirm Influenza it may be necessary to close the ward/unit or commence enhanced surveillance – whereby the situation will be monitored on a daily basis and may result in closure of the ward/unit.

Influenza is contagious from 5 days of onset; the course of the infection varies from person to person.

Due to the highly infectious nature of Influenza, if you have or have experienced flu like illness or have been in contact with somebody who has had these symptoms – **please do not visit.**

When visiting patients on the ward/unit it is essential that you clean wash your hands with **soap and water or alcohol gel on entering and before leaving their room.**

Ward/Unit closure

It may be necessary to close the ward/unit to visitors to prevent the spread of Influenza. This decision will be made by the Senior Management Team and Infection Prevention and Control Team. Whilst this is not an action that would be taken lightly and there will be exceptions that will be taken into consideration, your cooperation will be much appreciated.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Should you have any queries or require advice please ask ward/unit staff for an information leaflet. Alternatively, discuss with ward/unit staff or contact the Infection Prevention & Control Team on [REDACTED]