

COVID-19 Notice

Wednesday 25 March 2020



Frontline Staff Accommodation Issues

The Trust wishes to express its appreciation to all staff for pulling together to help tackle the COVID-19 outbreak and for continuing to work tirelessly to deliver our service and ensure that our patients, staff and the public are as safe as possible. We are acutely aware that some of our frontline staff may warrant special measures in relation to their accommodation needs during the outbreak, as explained in the following examples:

1. Staff who have a requirement to stay away from home to avoid contracting the infection, or bringing it into a house with family members in the high risk groups.
2. To avoid staff having to self-isolate for 14 days as a consequence of a member of their household being symptomatic.
3. Staff who become symptomatic **and** who have family members in high risk groups and need to self-isolate for 14 days.

A small Crisis Accommodation Team has been established to co-ordinate the sourcing of suitable alternative accommodation for those staff who may wish to request alternative accommodation in circumstances such as those outlined above. Every effort is being made to identify suitable accommodation within each of the Trust's five Divisions. The range of accommodation identified to date includes university campuses, hospital sites and hotels.

How to make a request for alternative accommodation

Contact the Operations Support Unit (OSU), who operate between the hours of 0700 – 2300, seven days a week, on 028 9040 0721. Tell the OSU staff member you wish to request accommodation and provide your name and telephone number. The OSU staff member will email your name and contact number to the Crisis Accommodation Team. A member of the Team will contact you directly to discuss your needs and, if appropriate, arrange accommodation for you. This Team will operate initially between the hours of 0800 – 1000 and 1900 - 2100, seven days a week, subject to review.



The Operations Support Unit will manage urgent requests for accommodation outside of 0800 – 1000 and 1900 – 2100.

Normal Out-of-Hours arrangements will apply for urgent requests for accommodation between the hours of 2300 and 0700.

We are all conscious that we are living in new and very challenging times, with circumstances constantly changing. It is therefore important to highlight that the above process will be tested and reviewed over the incoming days to ensure the Trust has in place a robust and achievable process for arranging alternative accommodation during the outbreak, should it be required.