

Merton Question Time Virtual Event

8 March 2021

Alfredo Benedicto, Governor

Dr Richard Jennings, Chief Medical Officer

**Robert Bleasdale, Chief Nursing Officer and
Director of Infection Prevention and Control**



Alfredo Benedicto
Appointed Governor – Merton Healthwatch



Agenda

We have presentations from Richard Jennings, Chief Medical Officer and Robert Bleasdale, Acting Chief Nurse and Director of Infection Control. To ask any questions please use 'chat' function at top of your screen or raise 'hand' and we will call upon you to ask your question.

Time	Item	Presenters
17:30	Welcome and Introductions	Alfredo Benedicto, Appointed Governor for Healthwatch Merton
17:45	Update on Trust Activities and Covid-19 Response	Robert Bleasdale Acting Chief Nurse and Director of Infection Control Richard Jennings Chief Medical Officer
18:10	Question and Answer Session	All

Welcome

This is our first Virtual Constituency Event

Your Merton Governors joining is today – Alfredo, Khalid, Nasir Khan, Hilary, Nasir Akhtar and Linda Kirby



Executive Panel Members – Rob – Chief Nurse, Richard – Chief Medical Officer, Stephen – Chief Corporate Affairs Officer



The Council of Governors represent the Trust's members – both public and staff.

There are 26 Governors – 19 elected and 7 appointed from local stakeholder organisations.

Governors usually serve terms of 3 years and their meetings are chaired by the Chairman of the Trust, Gillian Norton, who also chairs the Trust Board.

Meet your Council of Governors

Merton



Hilary Harland



Nasir Akhtar



Khaled Simmons



Nasir Javed Khan

Wandsworth



Dr Adil Akram



Afzal Ashraf



John Hallmark



Shalu Kanai



Ataul Qadir Tahir



Basheer Khan

Chairman



Chairman
Gillian Norton

Staff



Allied health professional and other clinical and technical
Alex Quayle



Non clinical
Jenni Doman



Nursing and midwifery
Marlene Johnson



Medical and dental
Dr Tunde Odutoye

Rest of England



Mia Bayles



Stephen Sambrook



Padraig Belton



Sandhya Drew

South West Lambeth



Richard Mycroft

Appointed from stakeholder organisations



Healthwatch Merton
Alfredo Benedicto



Healthwatch Wandsworth
Sarah Forester



St George's University of London
Dr Frances Gibson



Wandsworth & Merton Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Sangeeta Patel



Wandsworth Council
Councillor Sarah McDermott

Kingston University
Vacant



Merton Council
Councillor Linda Kirby

Governors meeting members

6



<https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/about/foundation-trust/members/>

Governors@stgeorges.nhs.uk

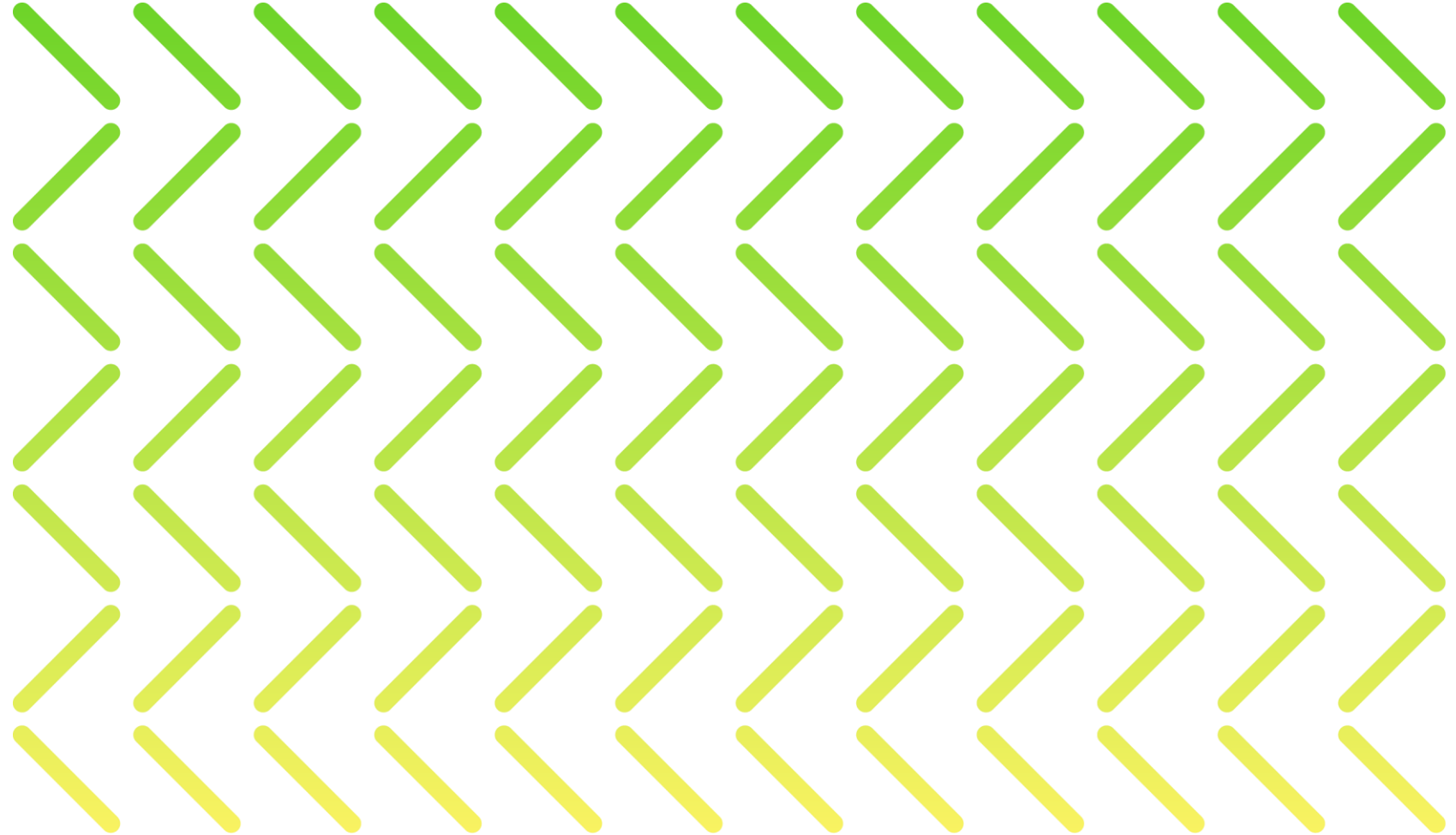


Robert Bleasdale

Acting Chief Nurse, Director of Infection Prevention and Control



Dr Richard Jennings
Chief Medical Officer



Our response to Covid-19 at St George's

- Since the start of the pandemic, caring for patients with Covid-19 has been the primary focus for our teams - however we have also been focused on ensuring patients who require urgent care, and those without Covid-19 are able to safely access the care they need
- We have worked even more closely with neighbouring hospitals and other NHS organisations in south west London. We are keen to continue this closer collaboration and build on it further so that the NHS can provide better, integrated care for the communities we all serve
- Improvements to integration of services in south west London will continue – part of wider government reforms promoting integrated care
- Alongside our response to Covid-19, other developments at the Trust include:
 - Been taken out of special measures by the Care Quality Commission, for both care and finances
 - Begun large-scale improvement programmes to our ICT and our estates
 - Renewed its focus on our organisation's culture and how we strengthen it.

Our response to Covid-19 at St George's

Number of Covid-19 positive patients in intensive care	Number of Covid-19 positive patients on our wards	Number of Covid-19 positive patients discharged since March 2020	Number of patients who have sadly died and tested positive for Covid-19 since March 2020
41	98	2,295	736

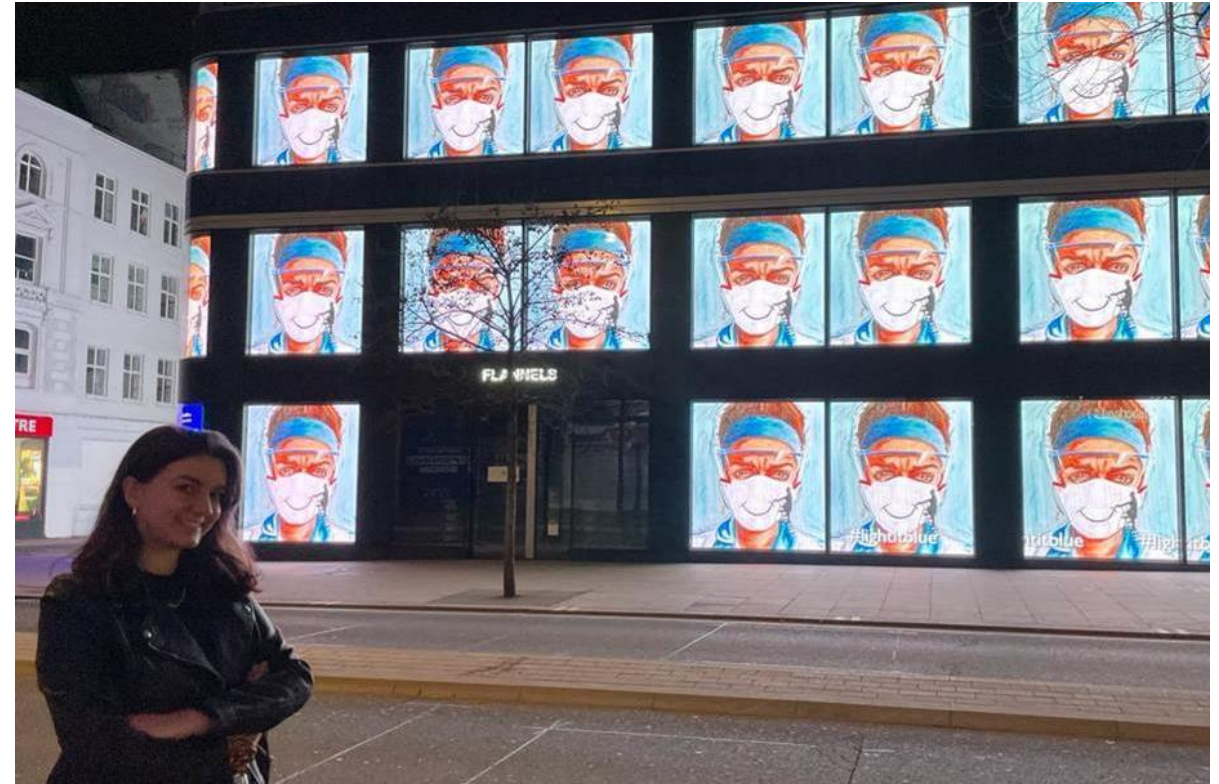
Information above correct as of 5 March 2021

Our response to Covid-19 at St George's

10

As part of our response to the second wave of the virus, we:

- Increased our intensive care capacity to around 120 beds – our normal capacity is around 60 beds
- Converted seven wards into Covid-19 wards
- Redeployed staff to support teams caring for patients with Covid-19
- Worked closely with our neighbouring hospitals to ensure mutual support is in place.



Sarah Franks, one of our nurses, whose image lit up Oxford Street last week as part of a tribute to NHS staff.

Our Covid-19 vaccine clinic

- One of the first 50 hospital hubs to open in December 2020
- Vaccinating the priority groups as specified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, and NHS staff with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine
- The team have vaccinated over 24,000 people, including thousands of staff at St George's and from across SW London NHS

We are currently in the process of contacting eligible patients by telephone and letter, to offer them the opportunity to book their Covid-19 vaccine – please wait to be contacted by St George's or the NHS.

More information on our clinic can be found on our website www.stgeorges.nhs.uk



Planned operations, outpatient appointments and diagnostic tests

As a result of the second wave, on 23 December 2020 we took the proactive decision to:

- Pause all routine planned operations from now until the end of January. Urgent and emergency operations and procedures (including for cancer) will continue to go ahead as normal
- Pause all routine outpatient and follow-up appointments until the end of January. This also applies to virtual outpatient appointments.

Next steps

- Affected patients have been contacted by our teams and offered rebooked appointments
- We are reviewing the situation on a weekly basis and will safely re-start as much planned care as we can
- Working with all our services to plan capacity for outpatients and theatres accordingly – as we reduce intensive care surge areas.

Supporting our staff and thank you

- Thank you to our local communities, whose support has also been a crucial part of our response. Praise for our staff and donations through St George's Hospital Charity have been enormously welcome
- Wellbeing of our staff is a priority and we want to make sure they have time to rest after the past few months. We have Introduced a number of initiatives, including staff support meetings, wellbeing spaces and care packages
- Recognise the efforts of all staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic.



Developments at St George's and Queen Mary's Hospitals

- Our St George's site in Tooting has been in need of improvements to our estate for some time. Work is now underway to demolish disused buildings, making way for new developments and improvements
- Our newly refurbished Emergency Department opened in February. The transformed space will help keep patients and staff safe and reduce the risk of infection from Covid-19. A larger waiting room and new check-in area to help improve patient flow has also been added
- New mobile day-surgery theatres opening at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton – supporting faster treatment for patients waiting for day-surgery as a result of Covid-19.



Planning for the future

- Our immediate focus is on providing outstanding care to patients with Covid-19 and those without
- Ensuring patients waiting for operations or planned care are treated – all NHS Trusts had to postpone non-urgent operations in order to focus on Covid-19
- We will continue to work closely with our NHS partners across south west London, with the aim of improving and further integrating the care we offer to patients.



Questions and feedback



