



Our Ref: EW/ST



**Birmingham and Solihull
Mental Health**
NHS Foundation Trust

2nd April 2020

Ardenleigh Hospital
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Dear families/carers

Thank you all for your understanding with regards to some of the restrictions that we have sadly had to apply within our services. These decisions have not been made lightly and we understand how these will have impacted upon contact with your loved ones.

We continue to review the guidance as directed by the government in an attempt to reduce the spread of Covid 19. We provide this information to all of our inpatients within our community meetings and will ensure that all changes in guidance are relayed timely so as to reduce any anxieties or uncertainties.

We have improved the access to technology including 'zoom' and smartphones on our wards. We hope that these additions go some way to maintain contact over this period.

We have had the first few confirmed cases of coronavirus infection in our secure hospitals and, just as in the community, we think that there are likely to be more cases over the coming weeks. We are glad that so far, none of these patients has become seriously ill.

We appreciate your understanding over this period and will ensure that ward teams maintain contact with you to alleviate any anxieties or concerns that may be raised to you by your loved ones.

Kind regards

Mary Elliffe
Associate Director of Operations
Secure Care and Offender Health

Dr Jeremy Kenney-Herbert, MBBS FRANZCP
MRCPsych
Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist & Clinical Director

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