



This week I was delighted to see the fantastic news that more than 30 million people have been vaccinated, representing more than half of all adults in the UK who have now had their first dose.

Here at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust we have made a huge contribution to those figures administering more than 20,000 doses through our hospital hub at Blackpool Victoria, through the mass vaccination centre at the Winter Gardens and through the wider health and social care system who have been providing people with appointments in a range of local settings.



I want to put on record my thanks and admiration to everyone who has been part of the vaccination team and also to everyone who has taken the jab up.

Over the past few months I have demonstrated how passionate I feel about the importance of the vaccination programme. I have been clear it is paramount to our fight against Covid and I really believe it is our best hope to find our way out of the pandemic and get back to some form of 'normality' in our lives again.

Please, if you're a member of staff here at the Trust, make sure you get your vaccine as soon as you're able and help us to protect you against this horrific virus.

I know there are some colleagues – and indeed in the community – who remain hesitant to have their jab but it is important to stress that the vaccines have gone through strict approval processes with rigorous testing, including with people from a range of ethnic backgrounds and health conditions.

The vaccine *will* protect yourself, your family, your friends, your colleagues and your patients so when it is offered please have it.

To help encourage you to take up your jab, I've asked our well known and highly respected consultant colleague Dr Eric Mutema to guest blog. Please read what Eric has to say on the next page of this update. He speaks with great authority about the benefits of the vaccination and I hope you will share his views with others.

**Kevin McGee, Chief Executive, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

## Guest Blog: Dr Eric Mutema



Hello. My name is Dr Eric Mutema and I am the Associate Medical Director for Wellbeing and Development.

I have had both doses of my Covid vaccine now and I really want to encourage everyone who has not yet had their vaccine to do so as a matter of urgency. The Trust has given us all the opportunity to get the vaccine and there is an excellent service available at the vaccination hub. There is also support from your GPs and other providers in the community too so please make the most of the opportunities on offer.

As NHS staff members we are all in a higher risk role than many others in the community and we need to take adequate precautions to reduce risks of contracting the virus or passing it on to others.

When the pandemic came one of the biggest hit communities were those who came from a BAME background. A lot of lives were lost and it was naturally a real cause for concern in those communities. It is for this reason that it is especially important for BAME staff to make sure they are vaccinated against Covid.

Unfortunately there has been a lot of misinformation about what the vaccine can and cannot do and that has made a few people nervous about getting the vaccination.

If anyone does have any doubts I am more than happy to speak to you about any of the fears you may have to reassure you of the process. You can also look at trusted sources of information such as the Public Health England website or speak to other trusted staff members such as those in our virology and occupational health departments who have a lot of knowledge on the issue and can give you all the support you need,

Some of the fears stem from the fact that the vaccines were developed quite quickly but I think this is something we can take as a positive from this pandemic as we look to reduce some of the barriers that have often been put in place to slow down research. The vaccines that have been launched have been done so safely and I believe this is the way forward and research into other diseases such as malaria, which I have a particular interest in, will benefit from.

I firmly believe in the safety of the vaccination programme and if you do take one thing away from me it is a plea to keep yourself safe, keep your family safe and keep your patients safe by getting vaccinated.

**Dr Eric Mutema**

### **IN THIS WEEK'S STAKEHOLDER BULLETIN**

[DR JIM'S VIDEO UPDATE](#)

[HOME FOR EASTER](#)

[DAY SURGERY UNIT UP AND RUNNING](#)

[MIRACLE BABY BORN WITH COVID CELEBRATES FIRT BIRTHDAY](#)

[CLIFTON STAFF RECEIVE GOING HE EXTRA MILE AWARDS](#)

[POSITIVE COMMENTS](#)

## DR JIM'S VIDEO UPDATE

This week's COVID video update is from Medical Director, Dr Jim Gardner, which can be viewed [HERE](#).

Dr Gardner talks about the continuing reduction in inpatient figures and the community infection rates across the Fylde coast and highlights the success of the vaccination programme nationally and locally with 21,489 vaccinations delivered so far in the Trust.



He also speaks about the forthcoming Easter holiday, urging people to enjoy the fresh air while at the same time keeping to the hands, face and space guidelines.

## PATIENTS DELIGHTED TO “HOME FOR EASTER”

Patients have thanked staff for ensuring they will be out of hospital for Easter.

The Trust has been running a campaign this week called 'Home for Easter' which has looked to help as many patients spend the holidays in their own areas wherever possible.

Maureen Cookson, 66, was admitted to Blackpool Victoria Hospital on Sunday with inflammation of the lungs and was extremely happy to be discharged on Thursday.



She said: “I am really not used to being in hospital so to be able to go home for Easter is fantastic news. The care I have had has been excellent and I can't thank the staff enough for looking after me but I am glad to be going back to my own home.”

Another patient delighted to be discharged was 24-year-old Mia Canham.

She said: “I was admitted on Monday with pneumonia which came as a real shock. I'm feeling much better now and have had great treatment but I can't wait to see my two-year-old son. It's the longest I've been away from him and am really looking forward to giving him a big cuddle.”

Chris Broadbent, Assistant Divisional Director for Scheduled Care, said: “The Home for Easter campaign has been great in terms of making sure as many patients as possible are able to enjoy the holiday period in their own settings. We know people prefer to recover in their own areas and this week has given us some ideas on how we can improve care in the future to ensure people don't stay in hospital for any longer than they need to.”

## DAY SURGERY UNIT UP AND RUNNING

The Day Surgery at Blackpool Victoria Hospital is receiving patients once again after being used in recent months to help bolster the Trust's critical care capacity to care for with Covid patients.

Last week the Trust was able to return to its normal critical care units leaving the Day Surgery available once again to take patients as the Trust looks to restore services wherever possible to support patients.

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of staff the unit was prepared and was back in operation and receiving patients this week as the Trust looks to restore as many services as possible as soon as it can.



Jo Marshall, Assistant Divisional Director of Nursing, said: "The staff worked wonders to get the unit ready to receive patients as soon as possible. It was a fantastic effort to get everything ready in time to receive patients."

## People Centred

## MIRACLE BABY BORN WITH COVID CELEBRATES HER FIRST BIRTHDAY

A baby girl born with Covid-19 at Blackpool Victoria Hospital while her mum was fighting for her life, turned one-year-old this week.

Ruby Dawson, weighed only 4lb 12oz when she arrived by emergency caesarean while mum Kathrine was sedated and on a ventilator fighting for her life with Covid-19.

One year on and Ruby is thriving – she goes to nursery with her sister Ava and mum Katherine has started a new job.

Katherine, 37 from Garstang, now works for a global pharmaceutical company and couldn't be happier.

She said: "I actually only started my new job last week when I came off maternity leave and I'm loving it. After last year, I wanted to



do something to make positive changes that can help people and my new job allows me to do that.

“Ruby is a fiery redhead but she is always smiling, independent and always happy. You would never guess how little she weighed when she was born.

“Looking back, the experience last year doesn’t seem real. I feel so healthy and Ruby has hit all her milestones and life has gone back to normal.”

Katherine added: “I’ve been given a second chance at life and it’s one I will live without regrets.

“All the Blackpool Victoria staff involved with our care have been in my thoughts. Without them, we wouldn’t be here.”

Excellent

### CLIFTON STAFF RECEIVE GOING THE EXTRA MILE AWARDS

Three staff on Ward 2 at Clifton Hospital have been nominated for a number of Going the Extra Mile awards for their hard work and commitment to their patients.

Sister Tina Welsh was nominated for her hard work thinking of themed

activity days and encouraging everyone to take part in a recent Jerusalem dance challenge that has been popular all over the world on social media, to raise the spirits of staff. Tina put posters on the walls and helped staff practise dancing on the wards, and the dance itself even saw staff come in on their day off.

Then Healthcare Assistant Annie Monaghan was praised for constantly entertaining the patients. Recently she helped a patient known for being glamorous to put in rollers and some makeup.

Finally, Ward Clerk Maggie Koziol was nominated “for being the glue that has held the ward together in tough times, and for constantly being positive.”

### EVERY ACTION COUNTS TO HELP INFECTION PREVENTION

To help develop a greater understanding Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) standards, NHS England and NHS Improvement recently led a project to understand how people act and what support can be offered to improve compliance among care workers.

Research was undertaken to gather insight from frontline staff, patients, professional bodies, and clinical and IPC experts. As a result of the research a campaign called “Every Action Counts” was developed and the Trust is working with its staff to prepare a campaign to



address the key themes of the research to help further develop its IPC practices to support staff and patients across the Fylde coast.

## POSITIVE COMMENTS

**Charlee sent us this message to thank staff for the care they gave her daughter:**

*"Today I visited with my daughter to have a Meckles scan. My daughter has autism so didn't have a clue what was going on.*

*"Roxanne the play worker was AMAZING!! Nothing was too much for her. She even managed to sort the TV out in the room by messing with the aerial.*

*"When I had to pop to my car for essentials, Rosanne sat with my daughter and said 'I didn't want her to wake up with no-one here.'*

*"That really melted my heart. All the team who looked after us today were great but Roxanne was really a hero with no cape.'*

**Lisa contacted the Trust to say a big thank you to staff on Ward 15B**

*'I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff on ward 15b. From the housekeepers, cleaners nurses HCAs and doctors, the ward is truly a credit to the trust. My grandma Grace spent her final days on the ward. All the staff went above and beyond to keep grandma comfortable and cared for. The nurses and doctors kept the family updated every step of the way.*

*"I really can't express enough how much your wonderful care meant to us. Thank you xxx'*

**Thank you for reading this bulletin. If you have any comments or questions, or would like to know more about any of our services, please get in touch via telephone on 01253 300000, through our [online contact form](#), or via post at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Trust Headquarters, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool, FY3 8NR**

