

# Volunteer Newsletter

August /September 2021



With the Summer months rapidly running away from us I thought would take this opportunity to firstly hope you are all well have found something wonderful to do during the brighter weather, in readiness for the impending winter demand and with the need and want for volunteers rising I thought would be an opportune time to update you with current role opportunities. I would request that if you **no longer** wish to be a volunteer please can you let me know as **soon as possible** as we need to plan the recruitment of additional volunteers.

## Volunteer Opportunities Continued

We are still looking to increase our volunteer input in our **Children's Departments** at both sites. *Role outlines attached* [A message from Kerry Godding](#)

**Paediatric Manager – Riverbank Unit & Children's Outpatients**  
Who would love to welcome you to her team

Riverbank is a dedicated Paediatric ambulatory unit housing Paediatric A&E also. We see children from birth to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday with a range of health needs. We can often be busy at certain times of the day but at other times not so, this varies day to day dependent on the needs of the service that day and the flow of patients. The wait for patients and their parents can often be long and frustrating and a nice friendly volunteer with a reassuring presence can often ease a situation for an already anxious child and parent.

Hedgehog ward TWH and Children's ED Maidstone has an amber risk attached to it and this means the covid status of the patients and parents is not known therefore, but with appropriate PPE and if you are either an amber or green status this role will be suitable

*Tree tops day surgery TWH is super green, and if you are allocated this area further guidance will be given to protect the patients*

All volunteers must be over 18 for this role and have completed the following.

- ✓ Volunteer passport training accessible via MTW learning this training needs to be completed by all volunteers, both those who are returning from shielding and those who were covid recruited volunteers.
- ✓ Individual risk assessment.
- ✓ Registered and complete twice weekly lateral flow testing.

Please find attached role outline and if you are interested in supporting please email [mtw-tr-volunteers@nhs.net](mailto:mtw-tr-volunteers@nhs.net) with your availability over the coming months.

[Mtw-tr.volunteer@nhs.net](mailto:Mtw-tr.volunteer@nhs.net)



## Covid Information

**After seeing no Covid-19 admissions throughout the entire month of May, in the last few weeks we are seeing an increase in Covid-19 patients.** With positive cases still within the community, all staff/volunteers

- Mask wearing within our sites is mandatory with visitors and patients being given a hospital issued mask when entering unless exempt.
- Social distancing where possible in all areas of the hospitals, including left-hand walking in corridors.
- Front door temperature testing for visitors.
- Working from home will still be encouraged where possible to help reduce footfall within our hospitals.
- Current visiting restrictions will remain in place and reviewed frequently.

We also remind colleagues:

- Not to ignore any Covid-19 symptoms in yourself or members of your family, even those fully vaccinated.

### NEW Information

Although double vaccinated individuals who are contacts of Covid patients will no longer be required to self-isolate from Monday when the government guidelines change, we have a responsibility to our patients and colleagues to do everything possible to reduce the risk of spreading Covid infection. So, we are going to continue with the current Trust rules on self-isolation.



### More Hub Volunteers needed

As previously mentioned there is an increase of Covid cases in the Hospital and as a result there is an increase in patient property coupled with patients needing escorting to departments we would welcome any help on the hubs to join our already very dedicated teams .

At Maidstone this will also potentially include supporting the cardiac pacing clinic, this is due to the location of the clinic and due to swipe access on doors patients struggle to gain access back into the building so a lovely volunteer helping patients navigate the building would be a huge help.

For more information contact Anne-Marie on [mtw-tr.volunteers@nhs.net](mailto:mtw-tr.volunteers@nhs.net)

### Chaplaincy volunteers returning

Following a trial period, we are now ready to welcome back all chaplaincy volunteers who would like to return. In order to return volunteers must have completed their volunteer passport and signed up for lateral flow tests. As well as this all chaplaincy volunteers will be expected to undertake some training. If you would like to return in in September please contact Stephen Baker or Anne-Marie



### Chaplaincy Update

#### Welcome to new chaplain

Susan Fauchon-Jones as a new hospital chaplain. She will work closely with our lead chaplain, Stephen, and will be working across sites. Sue will start next Monday, 23 August. Sue is not new to MTW as she was a chaplain here many years ago. I am sure you will give her a very warm welcome.



Macmillan Support Hub TWH is now open and needs Volunteer support. If you would like to hear more about becoming a Macmillan Support volunteer please contact Matthew Pellatt Higgins. [mpellatt-higgins@nhs.net](mailto:mpellatt-higgins@nhs.net).

Full article can be found: [New cancer information and support pod unveiled at Tunbridge Wells Hospital - Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust \(mtw.nhs.uk\)](#)



It has been so lovely over the last few weeks seeing more volunteers around. Can't wait for all of us to get together again soon.

*Love Anne-Marie*



I would just like to welcome to George who will be joining the team as Voluntary Services Assistant, we will arrange formal introductions over the coming weeks.