

### **Message to GP practices from Yeovil Hospital – postponing all non-urgent routine operating**

From Monday, 23 March, in order to ensure the organisation is fully prepared for managing the anticipated impact of COVID-19, Yeovil Hospital is postponing all non-urgent routine operating.

Urgent referrals, including 2-week cancer referrals, will be unaffected by this change and should continue as normal.

We will also be ceasing Bone Densitometry Scanning, private imaging and non-urgent imaging from the 23 March until further notice. Radiology will only be offering a walk in service for GP chest X-rays and there will be no-walk in service for any other X-ray imaging at Yeovil, Wincanton, South Petherton or Crewkerne.

We are acutely aware that our primary care colleagues are also under exceptional pressure and want to minimise any impact this decision has upon you and your interaction with your patients.

We will therefore continue accepting necessary non-urgent referrals and adding these to a waiting list. Patients will be contacted and advised that we have received the referral and that they will be booked in at the earliest, appropriate date depending on clinical need.

We would be grateful if you would advise patients, at the point of referral, that there will be a longer than expected wait for their appointment at our hospital.

In any circumstance where a referral can be delayed, we would please ask that you do so.

At this time, Consultant Connect may prove particularly useful for enabling a joint acute and primary care assessment of patients for whom a referral is not categorically required.