



CHARITY STATEMENT – CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The current situation with Coronavirus (COVID-19) is deeply unsettling for many. As ever, our priority is to our patients and families we support, our staff, volunteers and supporters. We are in regular contact with NHS England and are following all guidance provided to us from the UK Government and Public Health England.

At this time, we have conducted a thorough internal review of our activities as a charity. Inevitably we anticipate the current situation having a major impact operationally and financially. Following guidance available, we are implementing several steps with immediate effect to try and mitigate this impact.

In order to safeguard our community and staff, we have taken the decision to stop all non-essential staff travel and postpone all events until the end of June, including; the Ewing Sarcoma Symposium (12th June), the Bone Cancer Conference (13th June Watford) and four Support & Information days (6th April – iFly Manchester, 5th May – The Christie Hospital, 15th May – Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital, 23rd June – The Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital).

We appreciate this will be disappointing to many, however the safety of our patients and staff is of paramount importance. We know many of our community already feel the effects of social isolation due to the impact of primary bone cancer and would like to remind all our community that our Support & Information Line is available for anyone needing further support through this period (freephone 0800 111 4855 Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm).

We remain dedicated to delivering our pioneering 2017 – 2022 Research Grant Programme and supporting our research community. At present, we will still be opening future grant application rounds and grants currently submitted to the charity will go through our review process as planned.

As a charity we rely almost entirely on the donations and generosity of individuals, including those taking on sporting challenges. Following the cancellation and postponement of high-profile events, such as the London Marathon, we are anticipating a short-medium term loss of income in excess of £390,000. To try and mitigate this impact and continue our life-saving work, we will be launching an urgent appeal in the coming days asking all of our community to support us in whatever way is possible within the current climate.

We would like to thank all our community for your continued support and send our best wishes to all at this challenging time.

Bone Cancer Research Trust