Containing COVID: Managing COVID-19 on a Mental Health Ward
March 11 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak is declared a Global Pandemic

We are the team from an acute mental assessment and triage ward @Highgate Mental Health Centre, North London

We are here to share how we made changes to our ward, and our hospital, to manage COVID-19
Aims

• To isolate, stabilize and medically manage mental health inpatients with symptoms of COVID-19.
• Deal safely with deteriorations in physical health not meeting the threshold for admission to an acute medical ward
• How to provide an enhanced level of physical healthcare within the team’s skill range
• Limit transmission
Method

• Fixed and predictable daily routine ensured some level of continuity for both staff and patients
• Assessment proforma for daily use, and as a screening tool for admissions to our ward
• Daily medical reviews for everyone
• Attention to detail, with new equipment such as the basics of water jugs for everyone
• We clarified the threshold of oxygen treatment we could safely provide on our ward, and ensured supplies
Leadership

• Strong leadership from our trust
• Acquisition of scrubs and PPE as needed for our new roles
• Acquisition of Oxygen Concentrators
• Some redeployment of staff from community with enhanced physical health skills to our nursing team.