

Dear Livery Kitchen Initiative sponsors and supporters,

**Livery Kitchen Initiative Support over the Christmas  
and New Year period**

We thought you would be interested to know that we received a request from Newham University Hospital (NUH) on Thu (16<sup>th</sup> December) asking us for further Livery Kitchen Initiative (LKI) support as, with 50 Covid patients already in NUH, they are now managing their fourth Covid wave.

Newham has a low vaccination uptake (c.30-40% when last informed in the summer) so has been consistently hit first and hard by this insidious virus. This, and staff shortages due to infection and isolation, has meant NUH is already under growing pressure. With the R rate thought to be at R5 in that area, the infection projection is rapid and therefore hospital admissions are seen as likely to rise and quickly. Although the 50 patients currently with Covid in NUH are not so ill that they are having to be ventilated, clinical staff are still having to wear full PPE and are thus restricted in where they can travel in and out of the hospital.

As our Livery kitchens are now closed for the Christmas break, we have agreed to provide a Welfare Refreshment Pack (WRP - along similar lines to that which we provided the Royal London Hospital earlier in the year) to NUH three times a week from this Mon (20<sup>th</sup> Dec) to 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. This sweet-shop-on-a-trolley (e.g. ice creams, chocolate and energy bars, porridge pots, drinks, crisps etc...) will come direct from the supplier to the hospital, using LKI reserve funds kept back for just such a contingency.

We will also be providing WRPs to the Royal London Hosp (RLH) and Whipps Cross University Hosp on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. Although there are currently less Covid admission to both hospitals, this could well change in the coming days, such is the rapid spread of the new Omicron variant. Our consultant advisors, from the Barts Health NHS Trust, tell us that staff morale is particularly low as this fourth wave hits a depleted and exhausted medical hospital community.

So we believe the impact of us providing WRPs for all three hospital sites will be well worth the expenditure. Clearly it is also a good thing for the Livery movement to be doing at a time of further potential crisis.

## **LKI Ready Meal support in the New Year**

We have also agreed to provide 600 x LKI ready meals a week to NUH from 10<sup>th</sup> Jan to 18<sup>th</sup> Feb to cover this emerging fourth wave. In their view, NUH believe that whilst the initial surge of admissions may be quick and steep, the speed with which patients are released will be more gradual, thus the need for an initially assessed 6-week period of LKI support.

Whilst there are no plans yet to provide LKI ready meal support to the RLH or WCUH, this will be reassessed on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan to see how the hospital Covid admission picture has evolved.

The Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers and Merchant Taylors kitchens are stood by to take on this latest LKI challenge.

## **Reserve LKI Funds**

As you will remember from the last LKI update in the summer, a considerable LKI reserve was kept for precisely this eventuality.

£50,000 was given to City Harvest to appoint a Head of Community Impact to help undertake due diligence on the myriad of charities and organisations seeking food distribution support over the pandemic. This appointment has now been made. City Harvest has more than tripled its output in the last two years and so the new incumbent is certainly busy prioritising need.

£116,000 LKI funds were deliberately retained in reserve for the winter eventuality the NHS now appears to be facing. Whilst it is unclear how much will be needed, as the scale and duration of the support required is far from clear, such sums should keep the LKI project running for the first few weeks if required.

## **Thank you!**

The LKI Team would like to thank you again for your support and encouragement. It is the right thing for us to be doing at this time of crisis but we simply could not do so without you.

Richard Winstanley  
The Clerk  
The Drapers' Company  
18 December 2021