



Keep Our NHS Public Merseyside

*c/o News for Nowhere
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for immediate release

Cavalcade for NHS amid “300 unnecessary Covid deaths in Liverpool”

Campaigners will mount a bike and car cavalcade on Saturday, circling Liverpool Women’s, the Royal and Aintree Hospitals during national celebrations of the NHS 72nd birthday this weekend, while highlighting government failures to cope with Covid-19.

Socially distanced rallies outside each hospital will thank health and care workers and call for the NHS to be rebuilt, brought back to fully funded public ownership, with proper pay and respect for all NHS and care staff, an end to racism and all migrant charges, keeping the health service out of trade deals, putting public health back in public hands, and for radical reform of social care.

The Government claims only 1,684 people in Liverpool have had Covid-19, but this figure omits testing by commercial companies, overseen by accountancy firm Deloitte which is not required to report positive cases to Public Health England and local authorities. Most people have never been tested.

The Medical Research Council estimates 745,000 cumulative cases in the North-West, suggesting around 50,000 people in Liverpool have been infected so far.

“Experts agree that the government caused around 25,000 additional deaths by delaying the lockdown,” says retired public health academic Dr Alex Scott-Samuel.

“Untested patients were also discharged to care homes before Easter. It means over 300 people in Liverpool died unnecessarily because of the direct incompetence of Boris Johnson, Matt Hancock, and Simon Stevens.”

NHS staff have stretched to the limit to save lives. We recognise their irreplaceable work and the critical role played by women in this crisis, forming 77% of the NHS workforce, often lower paid and with additional responsibilities at home.

Black and Minority Ethnic patients have died disproportionately, even while working as doctors, nurses, cleaners, in care homes and public transport. Migrants face NHS charges and may be reported to the Home Office if they can't pay. Fear keeps people from seeking treatment, and women may have died in childbirth as a result.

“You don't know if you have Covid if you're too scared to see a doctor,” says Consultant Microbiologist Dr Jonathan Folb. “We cannot defeat this pandemic if people are too scared to be tested, treated, or participate in 'track and trace'. We ask our hospitals to tell the people of Liverpool that no-one will be charged for seeking treatment or reported to the Home Office while we fight Covid-19. The health of everyone depends on everyone being looked after now.”

Notes to Editors

The cavalcade has been organised by Keep Our NHS Public Merseyside and Save Liverpool Women's Hospital

Socially distanced rallies are scheduled for
12pm Liverpool Women's Hospital
12:30pm Royal Liverpool Hospital
1pm Aintree Hospital

1. Government data is at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>.

For Medical Research Council estimates of cases see Epidemic Summary at <https://www.mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk/now-casting/>

2. Additional deaths caused by late lockdown were discussed in BBC "More or Less" on 1 July: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000kfpv> and in The Guardian on 11 June <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/10/uk-coronavirus-lockdown-20000-lives-boris-johnson-neil-ferguson> and in <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00256/full>

3. Impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf

4. More information on NHS campaigning and Birthday events:
Keep Our NHS Public: <https://keepournhspublic.com/>

5. Local information

KONP Merseyside: <https://twitter.com/KONPMerseyside>

Save Liverpool Womens Hospital: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/SAVELWH/>

Merseyside Action for Migrant Health Care: <https://twitter.com/ActionMigrant>

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