

# GMB slams government for planning to close A&Es and ICUs



## The removal of these services at existing major acute hospitals will only result in death says GMB Union

GMB has slammed Government hypocrisy after it announced a huge new field hospital while pushing ahead with A&E and intensive care unit (ICU) closures.

Ministers yesterday said the ExCel Centre in East London will be transformed into a field hospital to care for up to 4,000 coronavirus patients.

However, it is simultaneously proceeding with plans to close A&E and intensive care units at Epsom and St Helier hospitals



The consultation to remove all acute services from the South West London and Surrey hospitals closes on 1 April 2020.

### The services under threat are

Accident & Emergency

Consultant-led Maternity

Paediatrics

Intensive Care

Cancer Care

Coronary Care

Emergency Surgery

Emergency Medicine

**Helen O'Connor, GMB Regional Organiser, said:**

“Despite the tragedy unfolding before our eyes and the devastating shortage of critical care beds, the Government is still proceeding with plans to close A&E, ICU and all other acute services at Epsom & St Helier Hospitals.

“The removal of these services at existing major acute hospitals will only result in death.



“After years of unnecessary austerity, NHS cuts have brought the health service to its knees and we are all now suffering because of it.’

“GMB is **again calling on the government** to put an immediate stop on all plans to close A&E, ICU and all other acute services at Epsom and St Helier Hospitals.”

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