

Covid 19

Dr Nicholas Airey

I work as a consultant in anaesthesia and intensive care at Liverpool University Hospitals foundation trust. Having worked in the NHS for nearly 20 years this has been an extraordinary time and one never seen before by myself or my colleagues. The scale and pace of change across our hospital has been unprecedented. We had to stop all routine surgery and redeploy and retrain staff to work in critical care. In our trust we would normally have approximately 15 patients on ventilator but during the response this number more than doubled. Having not done resident nights since my time as a junior doctor I found myself doing 12 hour shifts again caring for patients who required ventilation in ITU and A&E. It was shocking to see patients who were in their early 40s becoming severely unwell, developing multi organ failure and in some cases dying from the virus. It was made all the more difficult due to working in full protective equipment which is incredibly hot, claustrophobic and difficult to communicate in. I was amazed at the dedication of all the staff working on our ITU who had to endure these difficult conditions and see some harrowing sights. I feel very proud of the team I work with who have responded amazingly to the extra demands placed on them and the ability of the hospital to rapidly adapt to this challenge.