

Our Ref: MRCOVID2403

**Chief Nurse
Health Education England**

Sent via email

To: all Undergraduate and Postgraduate Deans

St Chads Court
213 Hagley Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B16 9RG



24 March 2020

Dear colleague,

Nursing Students: volunteering in the NHS to combat COVID-19

As part of the joint announcement made by the Chief Nursing Officers for the four UK nations, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the Council of Deans of Health, the Royal Colleges and trade unions and the UK Department of Health and Social Care on Thursday 19th March, the NHS is asking third and second year undergraduate and second-year postgraduate nursing students to consider undertaking paid NHS roles to support the NHS' emergency response to the COVID-19 outbreak and support our NHS' resilience and capacity at this time.

To support this, the NMC is permitting third-year undergraduate nursing students in their final six months of training to be considered for a temporary NMC registration and be deployed in an enhanced role with NHS providers.

The ask

To facilitate this, HEE is asking education providers, as the organisations with direct contact and key links to nursing students, to please contact in the first instance all third-year undergraduate nursing students, to enquire and then report their availability, suitability and willingness to undertake these roles. This will then be extended to contacting second year undergraduates and second year postgraduate students.

We know that is an additional ask, but we understand many education providers have already been contacted by keen students; this process allows you to focus these requests into one streamlined and

nationally coordinated system. We have kept the data required from each student to the minimum we need.

Once you hear from students, we need you to input the information into a new HEE online data portal, which will soon be accessible [here](https://covidstudentdata.hee.nhs.uk) at <https://covidstudentdata.hee.nhs.uk>. This portal is very similar to the one being rolled out with your colleagues as part of HEE's new national Student Data Collection. As such your colleagues - those already familiar with this tool - will soon receive emails asking them to register to access this new data portal, along with the guidance documents needed to support this request.

HEE is requesting data on all eligible students, regardless of whether they are interested in volunteering or whether they are suitable to do so. This allows me to complete my daily reports to Downing Street on our progress recruiting volunteers. When submitted, HEE take this information and, working with partners through the regional NHS Workforce Cells, place willing and suitable nursing students with the most appropriate employer. As we expand this collection, the data will also help us all to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the student nursing workforce and to support them to complete their studies and join the NHS workforce into the future.

New national Student Data Collection - extension

Acknowledging the additional demand this will place on you, HEE is extending the return window for the first new Student Data Collection. The deadline is now 22nd May 2020 (originally 17th April).

We know this is a difficult time for all concerned, including the higher education sector, and we in the NHS are grateful for your support. This activity will directly lead to an increase in health service capacity and support sustaining the NHS can the care it provides.

Yours faithfully,



Professor Mark Radford

Chief Nurse, Health Education England, & Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for England

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