

## South West COVID-19 Workforce Cell Bulletin – 3 April 2020

This weekly bulletin aims to provide a summary of key information and updates on COVID-19 guidance that has been shared to date. It should be read in conjunction with the national COVID-19 advice and guidance hosted by [Health Education England](#) and [NHS England and NHS Improvement](#).

[COVID19workforce.sw@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:COVID19workforce.sw@hee.nhs.uk) / Out of hours emergencies: 01454 252 679

This bulletin covers:

- [South west COVID-19 workforce cell TORs](#)
- [Clinical guide to adult critical care during the coronavirus pandemic: staffing framework](#)
- [Infection prevention and control guidance \(including PPE\)](#)
- [Recording medical absences](#)
- [Guidance for trusts on agency use during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Hotel accommodation for NHS staff](#)
- [Simulation](#)
- [Student nurses volunteering for COVID-19 response](#)
- [UK health and HEE e-Learning for Healthcare \(e-LfH\)](#)
- [Medical trainee update](#)
- [Dental update](#)
- [Useful resources](#)

### South west COVID-19 workforce cell TORs

The south west COVID-19 workforce cell has been established to coordinate the regional workforce cell NHS response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the UK, via the south west Incident Management Team (SW-IMT/ICC). The Terms of reference for this cell are attached to the email separately for your information.

Queries and contacts regarding workforce should be directed to:

[COVID19workforce.sw@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:COVID19workforce.sw@hee.nhs.uk) / Out of hours emergencies: 01454 252 679.

### Clinical guide to adult critical care during the coronavirus pandemic: staffing framework

NHS England and NHS Improvement have published [clinical guidance on adult critical care during the coronavirus pandemic](#) that includes: principles for deployment and redeployment of staff to match the needs of a critical care department, independent of where this care is delivered; indicative staffing ratios and competencies; and suggests professional groups that could potentially form part of this new workforce during times of surge and super-surge.

### **Infection prevention and control guidance (including PPE)**

Public Health England has now published updated COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance. This includes updated guidance on PPE.

The guidance and accompanying resources can be found via the link below;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

### **Recording medical absences**

It has been reported in the media that trusts are experiencing 25% absence rates through sickness or self-isolation for medical colleagues – this is not backed up by the figures organisations are submitting to NHS England.

NHS England are asking HR directors to please ensure all absence is recorded on the day it starts, in the standard absence recording system for those medics, whether that's e-rostering or ESR – which can then feed their SitRep reporting. Please also ensure the figures are completed, and totals checked, in the SitRep each day.

Understandably, improving this data quality will vastly improve NHS England's modelling assumptions on sickness due to COVID-19 symptoms or self-isolation.

### **Guidance for trusts on agency use during COVID-19 pandemic**

Attached to the bulletin email is guidance that has been jointly developed between NHS England and NHS Improvement, DHSC and the approved frameworks, and sets out actions for trusts to take during the pandemic. The key message from this guidance which is that any alleged issues of rate increases or other poor practice by agencies should firstly be evidenced, then be reported in the first instance to approved framework providers. There have been unsubstantiated allegations of rate increases reported, and it is important that they are evidenced.

NHSE/I have also looked to slim down data collections during this period and extend the weekly deadline by 36 hours, in order to reduce the data burden on trust colleagues and also to enable them to continue to receive key data to support the national workforce dashboard and respond to trends within the agency marketplace. This way they will be able to support trusts in the region who experience issues around temporary staffing, although of course the more trusts that submit data, the more help we'll be able to give.

### **Hotel accommodation for NHS staff**

We know there have been a high volume of queries from colleagues and NHS organisations about the hotel booking line for NHS staff. The CTM call line and booking remains in use, however they now have online booking available.

New hotel booking online link: [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NHS\\_Hotel](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NHS_Hotel)

## **Simulation**

Filming of clinical simulation scenarios to support clinicians entering the NHS Nightingale Hospital has commenced. Initially, these will include clinical procedures such as ventilation and managing a prone patient. Due to the clinical risk, filming is taking place in Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust simulation centre where the size constraints of the NHS Nightingale Hospital are being replicated.

Additional filming is also taking place at the NHS Nightingale Hospital to show site-specific information such as patient pathways and routes in and out of the building. All the content will be made available via HEE's [e-LfH platform](#).

A COVID-19 Simulation Community is now live on Future NHS Collaboration Platform with more than 90 registered users. The forum is to encourage the health and care workforce to share experiences and examples of education and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those with an NHS email address can self-register and colleagues with other email addresses can request registration.

To access the community visit: <https://future.nhs.uk/Covid19simulation/groupHome>.

## **Student nurses volunteering for COVID-19 response**

As the demand on the NHS remains high, we are now moving to the next stage of the collection plan and asking you to expand your collection to all remaining eligible nursing students and all eligible midwifery students. This means all nursing or midwifery students except those in the first year of undergraduate study.

- The Student Support Guide for student nurses and midwives has been updated, and can still be found here: <https://covidstudentdata.hee.nhs.uk/volunteer/doc/Guidance>
- The data collection template has been updated to reflect any requirements from extending the collection, and the new spreadsheet can be found here: [https://covidstudentdata.hee.nhs.uk/volunteer/doc/HEI\\_Upload\\_Template](https://covidstudentdata.hee.nhs.uk/volunteer/doc/HEI_Upload_Template)
- Mark Radford and Ruth May's letter to student nurses and midwives can be found here - <https://covidstudentdata.hee.nhs.uk/volunteer/doc/letter>

The next stage of this work will expand this to Allied Health Professions students, and the work to allow this is underway between HEE, the Council of Deans of Health and the HCPC. We will come back to you with more information on this shortly.

If you have any questions, please contact [jane.bunce@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.bunce@hee.nhs.uk) or [andy.gadsby@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:andy.gadsby@hee.nhs.uk).

### **UK health and HEE e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH)**

New content that has been added today to the HEE e-LfH's COVID-19 e-learning programme includes a learning path for staff working in primary care and community settings.

Other content now available in the COVID-19 programme includes:

- Essential Guidance from the NHS, UK Government, WHO and BMJ
- Public Health England - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Resources for Staff Working in Critical Care Setting
- Resources for Staff Working in Community Setting
- End of Life Care COVID-19
- Wellbeing for Staff

For more information and to access the programme select [here](#).

### **Medical trainees update**

Over the past two weeks we've seen lots of engagement with HEE's [Covid-19 trainee information page](#) with **53,000 visits**. HEE are adding content daily.

The latest updates include:

Covid-19 Specialty Recruitment Plans: Following the cancellation of all face-to-face recruitment, we have reviewed contingency plans for all specialties with senior clinical colleagues from the four nations, junior doctor representatives from the British Medical Association (BMA), Junior Doctors Committee (JDC) and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) trainees' committee, supported by our own Medical and Dental Recruitment and Selection team. A number of general principles have been agreed to support the appointment of doctors to medical training programmes, which will allow August 2020 start dates to be maintained. Find out more information on our [trainee information page](#). This is particularly important as we must keep our eye on the post-Covid world and be ready for it.

HEE are also working on some FAQs to support this information which will be uploaded to the [FAQ page](#) shortly.

### **Dental update**

The Letter of Preparedness from England's Chief Dental Officer, Sara Hurley, and NHS England and NHS Improvement, Director of Primary Care and System Transformation, Matt Neligan, published on 25 March 2020 outlined the

postponement of elective dental care and further assurance of NHS dental contracts. Please see [Issue 3 Preparedness for primary dental care](#).

Amongst significant changes to primary dental service provision it describes a highly skilled workforce with the capacity to help the wider health and social care system. The Office of Chief Dental Officer, England, has, to date received an overwhelming number of requests and queries from members of the dental team wishing to support the NHS and our medical colleagues in response to COVID-19.

To support both NHS colleagues and enable dental teams to volunteer, the Chief Dental Officer for England, NHS England and NHS Improvement is producing a framework for the voluntary redeployment of the dental workforce to areas of need within the wider NHS, based on the competencies of each dental team member.

Any dental team member wishing to support the NHS can register their interest via survey link on the NHS England & NHS Improvement website <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/returning-clinicians/dental-professionals/>

## Useful resources

- [Clinical guide for the management of palliative care in hospital during the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- [Legal guidance for mental health, learning disability and autism, and specialised commissioning services supporting people of all ages during the coronavirus pandemic.](#)
- [IAPT guide for delivering treatment remotely during the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- [Preparedness update letter for general practice: 27 March 2020](#) – from NHS England
- [Video tutorials on telephone triage](#) – from Somerset GP Education Trust
- [Queen's Nursing Institute: Rapid Training plans](#) – the QNI has developed an orientation and induction template set of rapid training plans to assist nurses making the transition into unfamiliar settings.
- [Caring for people at highest clinical risk from COVID-19: Background and FAQs for patients](#)
- [Wellbeing and mental health support for GPs during COVID-19](#) from Gloucestershire Primary Care Training Hub

FOR ANY QUERIES OR ISSUES, PLEASE EMAIL:  
[COVID19WORKFORCE.SW@HEE.NHS.UK](mailto:COVID19WORKFORCE.SW@HEE.NHS.UK)