

CSP Wales, Here for you

This briefing is for CSP members in Wales, from the CSP Wales Team. Our aim is to keep you as up to date as we can on what we have been doing and where you can get further information from reliable sources. We hope you find the resources here useful and we will endeavour to keep updating you regularly on what is going on.

The big picture

There have been daily briefings from the Welsh Government, here's the latest information about the bigger picture and the NHS as a whole:

The Welsh Government has underlying concerns that people may not be seeking medical help for illnesses and symptoms not related to Covid-19. Dr Goodall (NHS Wales Chief Executive Officer) reinforced the message that urgent and emergency care services for physical and mental health are still open and accessible.

A&E services are 60% down compared with the same period last year, there's been a 35% reduction in emergency admissions to hospitals, and it is estimated that patient activity with GPs has reduced by around 20-25%. The reasons for this are unclear and it is vital that the public listen to Dr Goodall's message and use services if they need them.

Health Boards in Wales continue to report their status as green or level 1, which means they are able to manage demands on their services.

Around 49% of critical care beds are vacant and available and 1 in 3 are occupied by people with confirmed or suspected coronavirus.

Field hospitals have been set up across Wales. The total amount of extra bed capacity is 6,000 and the [bbc have listed them here](#).

Speaking to Welsh Government

Team Wales continue to be in regular contact with the Welsh Government. Members of the team have met (virtually) with Ruth Crowder, Chief Allied Health Adviser to Welsh Government, the TUC, Health Education in Wales (HEIW) and others. We have been representing you and feeding back any issues that get raised with us. Adam Morgan has been meeting weekly with Stewards, with Jenny Francis in attendance.

There are also weekly meetings with other Trade Unions, Vaughan Gething AM, and we have weekly Welsh Partnership forum business committees to review and develop employment relation issues arising as a result of the crisis.

PPE Update

Alex MacKenzie, Chair of the CSP [wrote a letter to all the Health Ministers](#) about PPE availability to staff. In Wales, the team shared this letter with all the Assembly Members and asked them to follow up with the Minister. Since then, the PPE guidance has been changed and our website reflects the [guidance that should be followed](#).

Testing update

The Welsh Government has [published its testing strategy](#). The testing strategy is accompanied by FAQs on how to access the testing facilities and who they are available for. This has been a highly political issue in Wales with opposition parties accusing suppliers of giving testing stock to England and claims that the testing centres are underused in Wales. We are keeping an eye on this issue and reporting any concerns to Welsh Government representatives.

Mental Health Services for Staff

Mental health support scheme for doctors extended to every frontline healthcare worker in Wales.

A free mental health support service for doctors is to be expanded to provide support and advice for all front-line NHS Wales staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Minister, Vaughan Gething, has announced. The free support and advice scheme has been extended to 60,000 NHS Wales staff tackling coronavirus pandemic. This will also be available to any student or returning staff member working for the NHS during this pandemic.

The service is available by calling 0800 058 2738, visiting [this website](#) or by emailing HHPCOVID19@cf.ac.uk

Staff can also access free online [stress control tools](#).

Innovative working study

There are incredible examples of innovative working across Wales during this crisis. Aneurin Bevan University Health Board have started a [survey](#), asking for examples of innovation from across the country and professions. You can respond directly to the survey or email our Policy Manager Calum Higgins on higginsc@csp.org.uk to discuss a submission.

Returning staff

Recently retired staff are being asked to return to the NHS. FAQs and further information for AHPs in Wales can be [found here](#).

So far, more than 2,000 former health and social care professionals have re-joined the frontline to help the Welsh HS treat the large number of people who will need care over the coming weeks and months.

These include:

- 1,376 doctors
- 417 nurses
- 257 allied health care professionals and scientists have registered their interest by completing the NHSE survey
- 358 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have been included on the temporary register with the option to opt-out.
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Covid jobs Hub

A [covid hub](#) has been launched for professional covid related roles.

Students

The UK Governments issued a [joint letter on guidance for students](#). CSP Wales have met with HEIW to relay feedback on the student guidance and we will continue to raise concerns when appropriate. The HEIW guidance for students for Wales is available [here](#), and the CSP FAQs are available [here](#).

Public Health Information

Every day at 2pm Public Health Wales issue a statement giving the overall picture for Wales, and a summary of Government advice. Please [check this link](#) regularly for the most trusted source of official information.

Useful resources

The CSP has a [specific page on advice for members](#) who have questions about contact with patients.

There are also a wealth of information available on the ACPRC website on Covid-19, [the link is here](#).

The Welsh Government has set up a Coronavirus webpage which has links to the latest advice, ministerial statements and announcements. You can access that webpage [here](#).

NHS Direct Wales have launched an online symptom checker that can be found [here](#).

Thanks for reading through another update and we hope it's been useful. We appreciate that you probably don't have much time, so we have kept the contents to a minimum for you.

Keep safe from Team Wales CSP.