

## **CSP WALES – HERE FOR YOU**

### **Intro**

This email is for CSP members in Wales, from the CSP Wales Team. This is an extremely challenging time for you and we want to express our support and pride in what you are doing. We hope you find the resources in this email useful, and we will endeavour to keep you as up to date on what is going on as possible.

### **Speaking to Welsh Government**

Over the past 2 weeks the team have been in regular contact with Welsh Government about the guidelines and FAQs being produced for Wales, and we raised concerns with the Welsh Government about aspects of the response to Covid-19. We have contacted the Minister's office about PPE availability, risk assessments for at risk staff, consistency of communications and staff testing for corona virus.

### **PPE Update**

On the 25 March the Minister for Health issued a [statement on PPE availability](#) in Wales. Vaughan Gething stated that PPE from the NHS pandemic stockpile has been released to NHS and social care workers. He also stated that this was a finite resource and would have to be used efficiently. The CSP Wales team will monitor this issue and act on members concerns going forward. On the 28 of March the Chief Medial Officer for Wales made this [statement on availability](#).

### **Testing update**

Vaughan Gething [issued](#) a statement on testing (21 March) e.g. Testing capacity has continued to be ramped up and Public Health Wales now has capacity for over 800 tests per day. From 1 April, this will increase by a further 5,000 tests per day (total – 6,000 daily). From 7 April, this will increase by a further 2,000 tests per day (total – 8,000 daily). By end of April, Public Health Wales are aiming to have capacity to undertake up to 9,000 tests per day in Wales.

### **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](#).

### **Public Health Information**

Every day at 12 noon 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](#).

The CSP has produced [guidance on remote/video consultations](#) for members to implement this change in working style.

## Private Practitioners

Here's a link for [private practitioners](#) if you have not seen it already. As many private practices are closing, physiotherapists who are keen to help in the NHS on more than an ad hoc basis can go to this web link. They will be asked to complete the survey embedded on the page <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/returning-clinicians/faqs-ahps/>. This survey collects some personal details, experience and preferences. Once someone has completed it their details are passed to regional teams or **devolved administrations** who will connect them to providers who need support.

[This is how you register](#) to work in the NHS if you don't already. This link is for all UK countries, not just England. An overview of this process can be [found here](#).

## Actions by the Welsh Government

**Urgent care prioritised** - This action will allow for services and beds to be reallocated and for staff to be redeployed and retrained in priority areas.

**Testing for staff** - Rollout coronavirus testing to health care workers involved in frontline patient facing clinical care.

**Video consultations** - Rollout of video health consultations speeded up in Wales to respond to coronavirus.

**Protection for GPs** - GP surgeries across Wales have received packs of face masks, gloves and aprons for their personal protection as they treat people with suspected coronavirus.

**Protection kit** - Personal protection equipment released from stockpiles for use by frontline NHS and social services staff.

**Pharmacies** - Changed pharmacy opening hours to give pharmacy staff the protection they need to fulfil the medicines supply role and to protect their own health and wellbeing.

**Free travel for NHS staff** - NHS staff will be able to travel to work for free on Transport for Wales services from Monday 23 March until April 30 on production of their NHS ID.

**Recruitment** - Recruiting former health and social care staff to help respond to the coronavirus outbreak.

**Extra [hospital capacity](#)** - an extra £10m to speed up construction of sections of the new Grange University Hospital, which will provide up to 350 extra hospital beds for use by the end of April 2020. Hywel Dda have also revealed plans to utilise [Parc y Scarlets stadium and local leisure centres](#). Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board also announced plans to use the [Principality stadium as a hospital](#).

Thanks for reading through this hefty 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.