

Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

13/04/2021

I would like to begin this week by sharing my condolences with the Royal Family on the death of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The Royal Family have been ardent supporters of the NHS, its staff, and hundreds of charities close to our patients' and public's hearts.

We have lowered our flags across our estate as a mark of respect as we join the nation in mourning in the run up to Prince Philip's funeral. His funeral will take place this Saturday at 3pm; if you are working and wish to watch it, you must have agreement from your line manager to do so.

Yesterday, some of the COVID-19 regulations were further relaxed in Wales as non-essential retail etc. was able to begin reopening. I must ask that if you're looking forward to some retail therapy, please ensure that you continue to follow the current guidance by maintaining a distance of two metres from other shoppers, wearing your mask, and regularly washing your hands.

Yesterday was also the first day of the month of Ramadan, and I would like to wish all my Muslim friends and colleagues a Ramadan Mubarak. For the second year in a row, observance of Ramadan will be markedly different as a result of pandemic and I would urge everyone observing Ramadan to keep yourselves, your families and communities safe by continuing to follow the COVID-19 regulations.

The Muslim Council of Britain has compiled an excellent guide on how to have a safe and healthy Ramadan during the pandemic, which includes advice on receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. As you observe the fast during daylight hours for the next month, please remember that you are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine without breaking your fast as it is non-nutritional. If you are offered an appointment, please do attend to receive your vaccine.

Overall our vaccination programme continues to operate efficiently and we have passed the very significant milestone of delivering 300,000 vaccines. There is a full update on vaccination below but I would like to say that the easing of restrictions is predicated on the excellent work of our vaccination teams and our collective effort to follow the COVID rules. We cannot let easing restrictions undo all of this great work.

You may have read news about a potential third wave of the virus and I discussed this at length with Steve Curry, our Chief Operating Officer, in last Friday's *Ask Len* session as we looked at how the UHB can recover from the COVID-19 response. If you missed it, staff can watch it back via our [StaffConnect app](#). It was a fascinating discussion and I would encourage you to view it.

Len Richards
Chief Executive

COVID-19 Vaccination update

To date we have delivered 302,407 vaccines with 225,148 people receiving first doses and 77,241 receiving both doses. This means 55% of our total adult population have received their first dose and 19% of our adult population have received both doses.

In the last week alone, our key achievements include passing the 80% milestone of priority groups 5-9 ahead of the April 19th Welsh Government target and we have begun vaccinating priority group 10, inviting people aged 40-49 to attend one of our vaccination centres. All adult care homes in the region have now been visited for 1st and 2nd dose vaccines.

We have also developed [an online form](#) for people to request to be on a reserve / standby list if they wish to receive a vaccination. The form went live on Friday and we have received around 15,000 completed forms so far.

Our first community pharmacy joined the vaccination programme with the pharmacy at Tesco, Western Avenue offering 3 vaccination sessions. Appointments are booked through our booking line.

We also held another vaccination session at Dar Ul-Isra Mosque where another 100 people were vaccinated over the weekend.

This week, the Western Vale Local Vaccination Centre is set to open in the Western Vale of Glamorgan to support the delivery of the Covid 19 vaccination programme. Three GP Practices in the area are working in partnership to offer residents the vaccine at the CF61 centre in Llantwit Major, formerly the Youth Centre, to increase the vaccination delivery and accessibility. The Western Vale Local Vaccination Centre will focus on the 30-49 cohort and will invite people in 10 year age groups, starting with the 40-49 cohort from 12 April. This is a great development for our rural communities in the Vale of Glamorgan and great partnership working between GPs and the wider health system.



Volunteers needed for COVID-19 Study

People in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan who have had COVID-19 are invited to take part in a study to help further our knowledge about the disease.

As part of the UK-wide GenOMICC COVID-19 Study, which is being delivered at the University Hospital of Wales through Health and Care Research Wales, we are analysing DNA samples from people who have had COVID-19 with no symptoms or relatively mild symptoms to identify whether there are any trends that may provide answers to some of the questions we still have about the disease.

Despite the ongoing success of the Mass Vaccination Programme and lockdown restrictions currently being eased, we are by no means out of the woods yet and remain vulnerable to future waves of the pandemic.

We hope that this study will help to increase our understanding of COVID-19, helping us to answer some of the questions we have about the disease, such as why some people have had mild symptoms while others have been severely unwell, so that we can equip ourselves with further effective treatments.

It's really easy to take part in the study, with a home collection service for samples. You just need to visit the [GenOMICC COVID-19 Study website](#) and fill in a simple screening form. Then, if you're eligible, an appointment will be arranged for a nurse to visit your home to take a sample of your blood.

I would urge anybody in the area who has had COVID-19 to take part, and play an important role in tackling this disease. [You can find out more about the trial here](#)

Capital, Estates & Facilities: NEW Maintenance Request System

This is essential information for staff regarding a new web based maintenance request management system called MiCAD, which the Capital, Estates and Facilities team launched yesterday.

The team are committed to providing and maintaining a high-quality environment for patients, staff and visitors in the delivery of modern healthcare. This new system will improve the management of future maintenance requests throughout all sites of Cardiff & Vale University Health Board whilst providing the below benefits to the user:

- User friendly interface
- Full audit trail
- Real time visibility across the entire estate
- Reduce waiting times by ensuring works are completed in the allocated priority time
- Support changing the shape of the estate to meet the requirements of service delivery strategies
- Managing the interface between customer and the service providers.

The new system will allow users to record a maintenance request via any web browser, including those not linked to the UHB IT Systems. This will support our outlying sites, the wider community estates and external partners.

We would like to encourage all staff to use the online booking system rather than the normal helpdesk as the new system will provide additional feedback to the requester, reduce duplication of the same work requests being submitted and reduce waiting times for requests to be completed.

When you go to the webpage for the first time you will be asked to create an account. This will then be your unique login. Please follow the on-screen instructions.

Please be aware that previously reported jobs will be managed through the Estates teams at your local sites. Please contact them if you have any jobs you have concerns about.

Celebrating the success of our Flu Champions

With the COVID-19 mass vaccination programme dominating the headlines, we must not forget the other crucial vaccination programme that took place over the winter: the seasonal influenza vaccine. With our systems under pressure this winter as a result of the pandemic, a high prevalence of flu among our staff and patients could have had catastrophic compounding effects so it has been more crucial now than ever.

To round up this year's flu season we are holding our first virtual Flu Champion Celebratory event tomorrow at 9.30am. This is a chance for us to say a very special thank you to all our Flu Leads and Flu Champions who are involved in the efforts to ensure our UHB staff are vaccinated against the influenza virus.

It will be a short event (no longer than 1 hour) but will be one that we hope all those who contribute to the staff flu vaccination programme can attend, in order to soak up our thanks and appreciation for the 2020-21 flu season we have just completed.

Please join us from either a work or personal device using this link: [Flu Champion Celebratory Event](#)

20 million case notes on PARIS

Last week, we passed another significant milestone as the 20 millionth case note was recorded to our PARIS regional health and social care electronic record solution. This is an enormous achievement for the UHB and wider regional partners. 3400 staff across 162 clinical teams/services are making daily use of the solution as their e-clinical record, logging in over 142,000 times/month, and scanning some 14,000 documents per month in their progress to increasingly paperless working models.

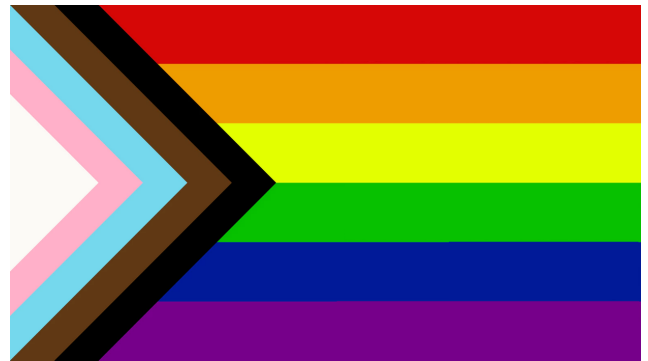
Working in this way is integral to the future of our services and this is an incredibly heartening figure. I would like to extend a huge thanks to all those involved in the sponsoring, management, designing, development, deployment and supporting of this UK leading initiative.



LGBTQ+ Healthcare Survey

In conjunction with the South Glamorgan Community Health Council, we would like to understand the experience of people who identify as LGBTQ+ when they come into contact with healthcare services, and provide recommendations to the health board to make improvements, if necessary.

Please follow this link to complete our survey.
All responses will be anonymous and the results used to help improve services for the LGBTQ+ community.



Other News and Events

Health Charity partners with the Stock Shop

The Stock Shop at University Hospital of Wales is now the official partner of Cardiff & Vale Health Charity with 20% discount for Health Board staff.

[Read more.](#)

St David's Hospital Newsletter

The latest edition of St David's Newsletter is out, [read it here.](#)

Captain Tom 100 Challenge

Get involved in a new fundraising initiative over Captain Sir Tom's birthday weekend of Friday 30 April to Bank Holiday Monday 3 May to celebrate his life and amazing achievements. Why not bake 100 cakes or climb 100 stairs to mark the occasion?

[Read more.](#)