



Dear Colleague,

16/12/2021

The size and scale of the booster programme means we now have to deliver over 156,000 vaccines in a matter of weeks. This of course comes with a challenge to ensure we have resource and capacity to deliver this ask.

We want to reassure staff that we will not be telling people to cancel pre-booked leave over the Christmas period, however we do ask that staff are flexible if cover needs to be arranged for critical areas so we can keep services running and ensure our patients have the best possible experience if they do need our care.

Staff wellbeing is hugely important and we know that staff are feeling the pressure and are understandably looking forward to a break. We do not want to interrupt those plans where you can recharge and refresh unless it is absolutely necessary to maintain safe staffing levels for our patients.

It's important to note that the pressures are across the system and not just focused on our hospitals. Our primary care colleagues are also facing a huge demand on their services with GP surgeries being exceptionally busy, local authorities facing recruitment challenges to the care sector and our mental health colleagues also facing a greater demand due to the effects of the pandemic on mental health and

wellbeing. Everyone is working tirelessly to meet these demands.

We are asking families to take their loved ones home from hospital where they can so we can free up our hospital beds for those that need our expertise. Our local authority partners are supporting us with this ask and identifying support where possible.

We are asking for patience and understanding from the community while we work through these challenging times. We know that people are becoming increasingly frustrated which is sadly leading to abuse of staff, which we do not tolerate, especially at a time when staff are doing their best to care for our local population and have had to adapt to new ways of working.

We are also appealing to our staff, volunteers, partners and the population to please take personal responsibility, follow the current guidance and continue to work through this latest challenge together.

We want everyone to have a happy and healthy Christmas period, but we all need to play our part to limit the spread of this virus and the impact on our services and each other.

Thank you.

Are you ready to play your part in the fight against COVID-19?

This is a critical time in the vaccination programme and we need your support to help protect our communities. You will play an important part in helping our population get vaccinated and boost their immunity this winter. We currently have a variety of roles we are recruiting for across our vaccination sites, including:

- COVID-19 Non-Registrant Immuniser Band 3
- Immuniser/Supervisor Registered Practitioner Band 5
- Pharmacy
- Administration

To find out more about the roles and how you can join the fight against COVID-19 [click here](#).

Are you a former registered Nurse, Doctor or Allied Health Professional? We are also looking for volunteers to help support our vaccination programme across Cardiff and the Vale. Your support will be critical in helping us vaccinate our community and provide vital protection against COVID-19. To find out more and apply to be a volunteer, please register your details by [clicking here](#).

Join our nursing workforce

If you're looking for a new and exciting nursing opportunity, register for our Nurse & ODP Winter Recruitment Event which is taking place on Thursday 20th January 2022. The venue and time will be confirmed soon. These events allow you to meet some of the team, find out more about the health board and the roles we have available. [Sign up now to avoid missing out.](#)



Trial to improve sepsis care reaches milestone

In July 2021, our Emergency Unit at UHW launched the PRONTO Trial. With the aim of improving sepsis care, patient outcomes and optimising antibiotic use in patients with suspected sepsis, the PRONTO Trial has since successfully recruited over 100 patients.

Sepsis is a common and potentially life-threatening complication of bacterial infection and early recognition and prompt clinical response are important to optimising outcomes. However, if a patient presenting to the EU with suspected sepsis does not have an underlying bacterial infection, the treatment of intravenous (IV) antibiotics will not be of any benefit.

The PRONTO Trial, which is currently managed by Cardiff University's Centre for Trials Research (CTR), and sponsored by the University of Liverpool, is researching whether point of care testing (PoCT) of procalcitonin, a blood test that helps to identify a bacterial infection, at the bedside improves patient outcomes and reduces unnecessary antibiotic use.

The dedicated PRONTO trial team are based in the Emergency Unit at UHW, enabling the

unit to continue to deliver unscheduled care whilst also offering patients the opportunity to be part of a multi-centre UK trial with minimal disruption.

Dr Jonathan Underwood, Principal Investigator and Infectious Diseases Consultant at University Hospital of Wales, commented: *“Our two dedicated research nurses, Lauren Thomas and Non Smith, are embedded within our Emergency Unit, enabling them to identify patients rapidly who may be eligible for this trial. They have been fantastic and are the main reason why this trial has been such a success and we have seen such great patient recruitment.*



“Despite the challenges the Emergency Unit is facing, we are still delivering innovative research that will improve the quality and the future of care of patients with sepsis.

“The pandemic has emphasised the importance of clinical trials for improving patient outcomes. Continuing to do research despite the challenges faced is important not only to benefit the patients in the trials, but also to encourage better outcomes and improved care more generally. We have seen an improvement in sepsis measures across the board since the trial

began, which is largely down to the hard work of Lauren and Non.”

To find out more about the PRONTO Trial, [please visit this link.](#)

Celebrating HMP Cardiff’s Healthcare Success

HMP Cardiff’s Healthcare team was commended at this year’s HMP Cardiff Awards, with Senior Nurse, Karen Mills, securing the coveted High Sheriff’s Award.

Recognising the exceptional work of prison staff, the HMP Cardiff Awards aim to raise awareness for the work conducted by members of the team and celebrate successes. In this year’s awards ceremony, the entire Healthcare team, Healthcare Support Workers and the Administration team were all shortlisted as Team of the Year.

Commenting on her win, Karen said: *“Prison nursing has many challenges but for me, it is one of the most rewarding. The regimes and level security we work under require us to work with in close communication and with a mutual respect for all disciplines, and over the years, this has formed a key part of our role. Being awarded with the High Sheriff’s Award is an honour and I am proud of myself and the entire team at HMP Cardiff for the hard work and determination we have shown and these awards are a testament to that.”*

The HMP Cardiff Awards come just a month after Kirsty John was recognised as RCN Wales

Nurse of the Year for her work with colleagues in HMP Cardiff, leading the testing system for all men arriving in custody and creating a vaccination hub within the prison.



Cardiff & Vale Health Charity Traditional Afternoon Tea at The Coal Exchange Hotel

Are you in need of a last minute Christmas gift? Join us for an afternoon of delicious cakes, sandwiches, scones, music and a charity raffle to help raise money for the Prop Appeal, supporting Brain Injury Rehabilitation. [Book your £25pp ticket here.](#)



The Health Charity Christmas Newsletter

Check out what the Health Charity Team's been up to in the run-up to Christmas, and get ready for the new year's challenges: <https://healthcharity.wales/app/uploads/2021/12/HC-Christmas-Newsletter.pdf>

Arts for Health and Wellbeing

Please enjoy reading about the recent and upcoming projects and exhibitions by the Arts for Health and Wellbeing team this Christmas. <https://cardiffandvale.art/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Arts-for-Health-and-WellbeingChristmas-Newsletter-2021.pdf>

