



CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONNECTS

Dear Colleague,

20/01/2022

This week we made a request to our public to only attend our sites if they absolutely need to.

In normal circumstances we encourage local people to support the services provided in our concourse areas such as the coffee shops, shops and the post office, but as we continue to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and best protect our patients and staff, we are encouraging our community to find alternative services off our sites.

We understand that the concourse facilities provide much needed refreshments and services for patients attending clinics and outpatient appointments. Additionally, our staff experience great benefit from them during such a demanding period, so it is important to keep them open in the interest of wellbeing. We are all working exceptionally hard to maintain services and additionally, our workforce is extremely fatigued after such a long period of sustained pressure.

We need your help in reducing the spread of COVID-19, so please, if you or someone you know is attending our sites for a clinic or outpatient appointment, there are ways in which they can make a difference:

- Do a Lateral Flow Test before attending, and only attend if negative

- Come alone (unless support is absolutely necessary)
- Wear a face covering at all times
- Maintain social distancing measures
- Wash hands often or use hand sanitizer
- Avoid using amenities on site

Thank you for your ongoing support.

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

To boost our vaccination offer, we are now running daily walk-in sessions for first, second and booster doses to help protect our communities and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Walk-in sessions are available daily at all three of our Mass Vaccination Centres (MVCs) to ensure anyone who has been missed has an opportunity to get vaccinated. Whether you need your first, second or booster dose, you can now walk-in to Bayside MVC, Splott MVC or Barry Holm View MVC from 8:30am to 7:30pm to get vaccinated.

This week, we are also running walk-in sessions for anyone aged 18 and over at a selection of community pharmacies to give our population the opportunity to get vaccinated closer to home. From 17 - 21 January, three

local pharmacies are offering dedicated walk-in sessions for those looking to receive their first, second or booster dose. The details of the pharmacies involved can be found on our website [here](#).

You do not need an appointment for the walk-in sessions. Individuals can attend providing it has been 28 days since a positive COVID test and there is an eight-week gap since first doses were received. For those aged 12-15, a parent or guardian must be in attendance, with walk-ins available at Bayside MVC and Barry Holm View MVC providing it has been 12 weeks since a positive COVID test and there is a 12-week gap since the first dose was given.

Getting vaccinated remains our best protection against COVID-19, and as restrictions begin ease I urge everyone to please come forward for your vaccination to protect our community and help us get back to doing what we love.

For more information about our vaccination programme and details of the walk-in sessions please visit our website by clicking [here](#).

Staff Flu Vaccinations

Our staff flu vaccination programme is well underway but the uptake of the flu vaccine is lower than we have seen in previous years so I want to take this opportunity to stress the importance of getting the flu vaccination.

Seasonal flu rates are reported to be rising in parts of Europe. While flu is not circulating widely in Wales currently, this may increase over the coming weeks. Flu, like COVID-19, can be very serious and getting your flu vaccine offers good

protection against serious illness, helping to protect you, your colleagues and your patients.

It is recommended that frontline healthcare workers get their flu jab every year to protect those around them from catching and spreading the flu. The free vaccine is available for all staff (especially those in regular contact with patients) at organised Occupational Health clinics. You can attend the walk-in Occupational Health Open Access Clinic on the 2nd floor of Denbigh House, UHW, every Friday between 9am and 4pm.



Most areas also have a Flu Champion who can vaccinate you in your workplace. If you aren't aware of who your local Flu Champion is, you can ask your manager and they will be able to point you in the right direction.

If you have already received your flu vaccination at a GP or community pharmacy, I would ask that you please complete the HAD ELSEWHERE form. This allows us to track which people have received their flu vaccination, and where. Click [here](#) to complete the form.

Launch of Shaping Our Future Sustainable Healthcare Animation

In November, our Board approved our latest Sustainability Action Plan – a comprehensive set of actions to challenge us to reduce our carbon footprint.

This week we launched our new Shaping Our Future Sustainable Healthcare animation which describes that action plan. It highlights the ways in which we are working to achieve our goals and outlines our ambition, engagement programme and intended methods of doing so. You can view the animation [here](#).

Our [Sustainability Action Plan](#) sets out what we'd like to achieve in the short term and acts as a springboard to going further and faster as we develop our plans to realise our Shaping Our Future Wellbeing aims and re-provide University Hospital of Wales.



Celebrating the success of our rapid access virtual occupational skin clinics

In April 2020 at the start of the pandemic, our team established a rapid access occupational skin clinic for staff to help with skin problems experienced as a result of wearing PPE equipment.

Our service involved patients being screened by occupational health nurses who provided advice and self-care measures, and for those with more moderate or severe skin conditions, referred them to dermatology.

We provided and distributed newly-updated hand eczema and COVID-19 resources following updated national, expert guidance across the health board and developed advice on masks and acne and dermol use.

In June 2020 we were the first clinic in the UK to restart patch testing and all data for occupational skin diseases and patch testing results during COVID were collated for Cardiff and published in UK study (BJD 2021).

Between April 2020 to Jan 2022, occupational health staff screened over 300 staff and the occupational dermatology clinic saw over 250 staff. This service has improved outcomes for staff in helping them to manage skin conditions, which has helped reduce the number of sick days taken. We are looking into plans to consider how we can provide this service longer-term.



Vale of Glamorgan PSB Draft Well-being Assessment Consultation

Vale of Glamorgan Public Service Board is consulting on its wellbeing assessment which has drawn on survey findings and national and local data to consider the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing across the Vale. If you would like to share your views on the assessment which will help to inform the PSB's draft wellbeing plan, [please take part here until 13 February 2022](#).



A VIEW OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

VALE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD DRAFT WELLBEING ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

WHAT IS IT?
We're assessing wellbeing in the Vale through our assessment. The data from this will then be used to write our draft wellbeing plan.

WHAT'S BEEN DONE SO FAR?
Many residents have already filled in the Let's Talk survey and we have data from national assessments.

WHAT'S NEXT?
We'll be consulting from January - February 2022, with the results published in April 2022. The draft plan will be launched in 2023, and will also be consulted on.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO KNOW?
Tell us what you think about our assessment.
Fill in our short survey from January 10 - February 13 2022.



Partnership with Haf Weighton

Since 2016, Welsh artist Haf Weighton has been in a long-term collaborative relationship with the Arts for Health and Wellbeing Programme. Haf has created inspiring artwork for Hafan y Coed and worked with Pencoed Primary School on an Arts Council of Wales Lead Creative Schools project which resulted in an exhibition that was officially opened by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Sophie Howe. The exhibition was later shown at the Saatchi. Haf is a much-valued artist within the health board's network and she is currently working on a project with Refugees and Asylum seekers at Oasis. [Read more here](#).

