



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONNECTS

Dear Colleague,

4/11/2021

This week we received the sad news that one of our colleagues from the National Poisons Information Service, Nikki Wheatley, tragically lost her life.

Nikki worked with us as a Specialist in Poisons Information and she will be remembered for her calm, friendly and totally professional manner, even when faced with the most difficult of cases. She was an enthusiastic, dedicated and an incredibly capable colleague.

Nikki leaves her young family; husband and extended family and our thoughts are with them at this terrible time.

As we enter the winter months, we will be experiencing the most challenging period in NHS history. The continued pressure brought about by the pandemic has put our services and our staff under considerable strain, so I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of the hard work that you continue to do for our organisation and for our patients.

Much of the challenge we face is around recruitment in the nursing and midwifery sector which has been an ongoing issue nationally. We are investing in several initiatives to boost recruitment and retention to help reduce pressures in both the short and long term and ensure nurses and midwives

receive the support they need to continue providing the best care for our patients.

As COVID-19 cases remain high in our communities, we urge everyone to play their part in helping to stop the spread. This week, the Welsh Government announced some changes to isolation guidance which are detailed later in this update. As well as following the guidance please remain vigilant by getting both your jabs, wearing a mask in healthcare settings, getting tested and self-isolating if you have symptoms.

Finally, in line with our Shaping our Future Sustainable Healthcare strategy we have made some changes to our car parking and travel arrangements. Parking contractors Parking Eye will be on site from 1 December so we are asking that staff, patients and visitors ensure they take note of the parking regulations on site. We are pleased to announce that the Park and Ride is now up and running at both UHL and UHW which is free for all our patients, staff and visitors and is a sustainable travel option, helping to reduce the number of vehicles coming to and from our hospital sites.

**Professor Stuart Walker**  
**Interim Chief Executive**

# Strengthening a resilient nursing and midwifery workforce in our Health Board

We recognise the significant pressures our nursing and midwifery teams are currently experiencing. The wellbeing and safety of our staff and our patients is paramount and we are committed to a number of initiatives to help alleviate workforce pressures as a matter of priority.

We are underway with a programme of recruitment events for nurses, ODPs and midwives, as well as student streamlining engagement and events for temporary Registered Nurses and bank Health Care Support Workers. We are excited to develop these events further and showcase our Health Board as a fantastic place to live, work and learn.

Our Overseas Nurses Programme continues to be a great success, supporting overseas nurses through registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council to join our Health Board as Registered Nurses on completion of their course. The programme has already supported over 175 overseas nurses to join us.

The Health Board is also part of the Kickstart Scheme which helps young people develop valuable skills and experience for employment. Plans are underway to continue to scale up the scheme to provide valuable administration support.

We are also working closely with Local Authorities to provide training and support for refugees who wish to continue their career with the NHS. Some have valuable skills in healthcare that are transferrable to some of the roles we offer. People can be supported into healthcare support worker roles or embark on the Health Board's Overseas Nurses Programme in the future.

As we move into winter, pressures are likely to persist, so I would like to thank all of our staff that continue to go above and beyond for our patients and show admirable dedication to their professions. I encourage staff to take advantage of the support and resources available through our Employee Wellbeing Service as our recruitment plans.





# COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Our staff continue to make excellent progress in vaccinating our population. This winter vaccines are the best protection we have against serious illnesses including COVID-19 and influenza.

If you are invited for a vaccination don't delay, please prioritise your appointment to help protect yourself, your family and your community.

I am pleased to share we have now invited all young people aged 12-15 for their vaccination. If you are 12-15 years old and have not yet your COVID-19 vaccination, from today you can attend our walk-in clinics at Bayside Mass Vaccination Centre (MVC). The walk-in clinics at Bayside MVC run daily from 8:30am – 7:30pm, and 12-15 year olds must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Following guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) regarding a third primary dose for individuals who are immunosuppressed, vaccinating this group remains a priority. We are working closely with clinicians to review treatment plans and vaccinate individuals at the right time. If you are eligible for a third primary dose you will be invited for an appointment in due course.

We began delivering COVID-19 booster vaccinations to all those eligible on 18th September, and I am sure you will join me in thanking our staff for their hard work and professionalism. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that boosters are being offered at least 6 months after second doses were given.

Public Health Wales has stated that protection against severe disease from the first two doses seems to decline very slowly. So don't worry if your booster vaccine is given a few weeks after the six month time-point. The booster dose should help to extend your protection into the next year.

We are scheduling booster appointments in the same order second doses were received, when it's your turn you will receive an invitation letter with your appointment details. Our booking line continues to receive a high volume of calls, so please wait to be contacted and only call the booking line if you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment.

[If you have any questions about our vaccination programme, you can find more information on our website by clicking here.](#)

[To check whether you are eligible for the autumn booster programme visit the Public Health Wales website.](#)



# New Transitional Care Unit at St David's Hospital

On Monday 1 November a new Transitional Care Unit (TSU) opened at St David's Hospital.

The TCU is a 20-bed unit based on Glan Ely ward designed to support patients who no longer need an acute medical bed and are awaiting a package of care to return home or a care home placement.

This Unit is nurse led and is supported by therapy leads within St David's Hospital and will improve the overall patient experience as they will be in a more appropriate environment for their needs.

Patients will be reviewed from a Daily medically fit list in conjunction with the ward staff from the TCU, IDS teams and local authority staff. Wards will also be able to highlight patients they think may be suitable for the ward and these patients will be screened and pulled on to the Unit if appropriate.

Patients will benefit from a quieter environment

as they wait for discharge out of hospital and will be able to enjoy activities run by staff and volunteers including input from Mental Health Matters.

The aim of the TCU is to support patients to gain their independence and confidence so they can reintegrate back into the community while they are awaiting their care package to start.

As they are in a less acute environment, staff can support them with their medications and also the number of care calls that they will receive at home to ensure that they are able to manage when they go home.

The unit is run by a very experienced discharge team who will be able to ensure a seamless transition home. All patients who are admitted to the unit will be medically fit and will have finished any treatment needed in the acute medical wards, so they can experience the full benefit of what the TCU can offer them.

## Recovery & Wellbeing College launches Autumn prospectus (Part 2)

The Cardiff and Vale Recovery & Wellbeing College has launched Part 2 of its Autumn Term Prospectus. The college provides free educational courses on a range of mental health, physical health and wellbeing topics. Anyone is welcome to enrol as a student and courses take place online or in-person at venues across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Peer support is at the core of all courses, all co-produced and co-delivered by health care professionals and peer trainers with lived experience of mental and physical health challenges. Course leads use their experience to support others.

Courses available for Part 2 of this term include; Understanding Depression, Living Well with Fatigue, Men and Mental Health, Connecting with Hope, Singing for Wellbeing, and many more. [Take a look at the new prospectus and sign up now to avoid missing out.](#)



Cardiff and Vale  
**Recovery &  
Wellbeing College**

# A vision for the future of genomics in Wales

Genomics Partnership Wales has been granted Welsh Government approval of a business case to develop a £15.3M state-of-the-art genomics facility at a site in the north of Cardiff.

This important decision supports Wales' commitment to invest in a vibrant ecosystem of precision medicine research, innovation and national service development and delivers on a key investment objective laid out in Welsh Government's Genomics for Precision Medicine Strategy.

Genomics Partnership Wales' vision, "working together to harness the potential of genomics to improve the health, wealth and prosperity of the people of Wales" has been long been underpinned by the commitment to co-locate three key partner organisations; the All Wales Medical Genomics Service; Public Health Wales' Pathogen Genomics Unit and Wales Gene Park, hosted by Cardiff University. This progressive model sees Wales become the first UK Nation to ensure that genomics can benefit from true integration; pooled resources, shared knowledge and expertise – to ensure that Wales' genomic health and research provision is fit for the future.

This will enable Wales to attract and retain the best minds and to build a truly resilient infrastructure that will support the rapid development anticipated in the field of precision medicine in the years to come.

The new development which sees the refurbishment of an existing building at Cardiff Edge Life Sciences Park (Coryton, Cardiff), has been co-designed by members of staff, patients and the public and will provide a calm, welcoming environment for patients and their families, world-class microbiological

containment and research laboratories, clinical space in the form of consulting rooms, seminar facilities, modern office spaces and areas that promote staff wellbeing.

The new facility will be a cornerstone of Wales' precision medicine ambition, establishing Cardiff Edge as a co-productive environment between Industry and Academia and with the NHS at its heart. This will enable earlier detection of disease, prevent illness, prolong independence and improve access to clinical trials for people in Wales. It will also bring economic benefit to the population of Wales through investment and job creation.

The ambition and determination of the genomics community in Wales to do something different, bold and exciting together for the benefit of Wales, is what will continue to create opportunity, enable exciting collaboration and drive success in this rapidly evolving environment.

Eluned Morgan, Minister for Health and Social Services said: "The new £15.3m invested will help to support a national focus on new services, new research studies and increased partnership interaction.

"Wales has established itself at the forefront of genomics services and research and as a government we continue to invest in projects that are improving health outcomes, including developing new genetic tests for cancer services, the Wales Infants and Children's Genome Service as well as the world-leading SARS-CoV-2 service. Genomics Partnership Wales will very much build on this work through co-locating genomics disciplines at the new site, and I am excited to see what this partnership will deliver in the future."

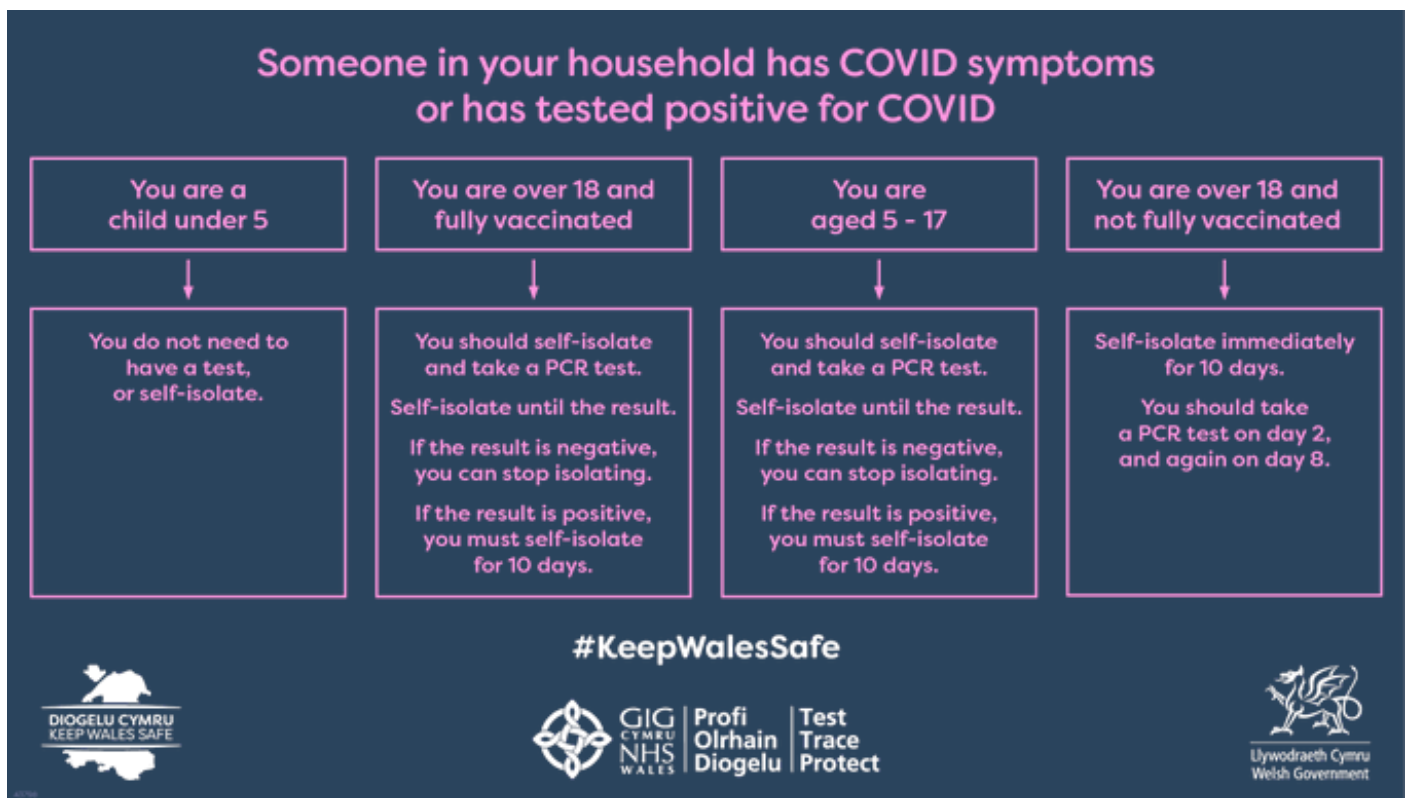
## Changes to self-isolation guidance

As you may already be aware, last Friday Welsh Government announced changes to the self-isolation guidance.

If someone in your household has coronavirus symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus and you are fully vaccinated, or aged between 5-17, you should self isolate and take a PCR test.

If your test is negative you don't have to isolate any longer. If you are not fully vaccinated you should self-isolate for 10 days. You should take a PCR test day 2 and day 8 and self-isolate for 10 days even if your tests are negative.

[For full details on the new guidance please visit this link.](#)



## Other Updates

### Cardiff Royal Infirmary newsletter

#### CRI Newsletter

Please enjoy reading the latest Cardiff Royal Infirmary Newsletter. This edition is full of exciting developments as well as updates about the Arts Council of Wales supported project, 'Cardiff Royal Infirmary, People, Place Future.' [You can read it here.](#)

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