

Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

09/02/2021

To date we have delivered 87,990 vaccines across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan which is a huge achievement. We are on target to have offered a vaccination to all people in the priority groups 1-4 by the end of the week.

Our GP Practices have been incredible in their rollout by holding clinics over the weekend to ensure the majority of the population aged 75+ receive their first dose and the opening of our third Mass Vaccination Centre at Holm View Leisure Centre in Barry will certainly increase our capacity.

There may be some occasions where we have missed getting to someone in these groups, as they have changed address or telephone number so if you fall under the following groups and have NOT yet been contacted please get in touch so we can book you in:

- Age 75 and over: contact your GP Practice
- 75 and over and clinically extremely vulnerable/shielding: contact your GP Practice
- Age 70-74: contact the booking centre on 029 2184 1234
- Age 74 and under and clinically extremely vulnerable/shielding: contact the booking centre on 029 2184 1234
- Aged 70 and over AND housebound: contact the booking centre on 029 2184 1234
- Frontline Health and Social Care Staff: email cvuhb.massimms@wales.nhs.uk

Please only contact us if you are in one of the groups above. We will be scheduling in further priority groups from next week.

We are expecting a decrease in supply of the vaccines during the weeks commencing 15th February and 22nd February so we are looking at our delivery over these weeks.

From 14th February we will be using our supply of Pfizer vaccine for second doses only. Therefore we will start vaccinating people with their second doses of the Pfizer vaccine from 15th February at our Mass Vaccination Centre in Splott. You do not need to contact us for your second dose appointment if it has not already been scheduled as you will be contacted to attend.

Our supplies of Oxford AstraZeneca are also expected to be lower over these two weeks with just 7,500 available on 15 February and 5,500 available on 22 February.

GP Practices will now start to schedule in priority group 5 (aged 65-69) to attend their GP Practice and people in priority groups 6 and 7 (underlying health conditions and aged 60-64) will start to receive invitations to one of our Mass Vaccination Centres in Pentwyn or Barry.

Continued on page two.

Continued from page one

Therefore the number of vaccinations delivered over these weeks will be lower but we are expecting a significant increase in vaccine supply from 1st March.

Tonight, you have an opportunity to ask your questions about the COVID-19 vaccine to a panel of experts. The question and answer session starts at 6pm, and you can [find the details and sign up here](#).

The vaccination programme is the largest mass vaccination programme the NHS has ever delivered so we have a dedicated web page which is regularly updated with FAQs, Myth Busters, news stories and data so you can keep up to date with what is happening across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

I would like to thank the public for their patience while we work at pace to deliver this programme to protect our population and also thank our staff for their unwavering commitment and dedication to supporting this delivery.

Len Richards
Chief Executive

Cardiff and Vale UHB leads UK in world's largest ICU oxygen trial

We have recently led in the UK, the largest ever research trial looking at how patients are treated with oxygen in ICU (Intensive Care Units). Patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure in ICU are commonly treated with supplemental oxygen, but the benefits and harms of different oxygen targets have been unclear.

The study which ran in a number of ICU sites across the UK found that among adult patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure, a lower oxygen target did not result in lower mortality than a higher target at 90 days. Since the conclusion of the study, the research has been published in the highly respected New England Journal of Medicine.

The results of the study are timely in the midst of the current pandemic. Given that COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and critically ill patients often require the support of oxygen, the results of this study will be used to further guide oxygen use.

We are so proud of contributions to research we make at Cardiff and Vale UHB, on both a national and international level. It is so important to be part of research that will have a tangible impact on healthcare on the world stage. I'd like to pass on my sincere thanks and congratulations to the whole team for continuing to push the boundaries of what we know in the interest of patient care.

The IPC moral challenge – Risks costs lives

I want to once again extend my heartfelt thanks for the level of dedication and commitment our staff members show to patients, families and colleagues on a daily basis. Without you, there wouldn't be any light at the end of this very long tunnel.

But we need your help. We're still facing challenges in managing the Coronavirus pandemic and although cases have reduced, we're unfortunately still seeing hospital acquired transmissions within our wards. We can't afford for standards to drop and we are collectively responsible for everything that happens within our places of work.

If you've started leaving your mask off to walk around the corridors, if you've stopped washing your hands as regularly or if you've chosen to walk and chat less than 2m away from colleagues, now is the time to please reflect on these actions. It's also the time to hold each other to account. We appreciate the daily strains and the level of sadness many are feeling being separated by their families, but we need to come together and ensure we're doing everything in our power to stop the spread of this virus around departments and teams.

There is a need to reinforce the importance of risk reducing behaviours to protect patients, staff and our communities. So we'd like your support with our new staff campaign.

Over the next few weeks, you'll see posters, social media posts and stories relating to this campaign. Its aim is to make you stop and think about your colleagues' actions and whether they're acceptable to you or not. The posters display a number of real-life scenarios that we wouldn't accept outside of a work setting on any normal day, and so we want you to think about your actions here too.



National Apprenticeship Week

This week is National Apprenticeship Week: our chance to celebrate the achievements of our Cardiff and Vale apprentices, who play a huge role within our health and care system.

We launched our Apprenticeship Academy in conjunction with our signing of the pledge to the Cardiff Commitment which sees us working in partnership with schools and education providers to connect children and young adults to the vast range of opportunities available in the NHS.

For many students leaving school, the traditional routes into further education are not appealing, they are looking for opportunities which will allow them to gain 'hands on' paid work experience whilst completing a qualification which compliments their role.

A number of departments from the across the UHB have successfully appointed apprentices who have gone on to gain roles at the end of the 12 months. The feedback from line managers has been extremely positive, some remarking that this has been a rewarding experience and one which they would repeat if the opportunity arose.

We are aiming to increase the opportunities for apprenticeships across the service to fill skills gaps, bring fresh perspectives and create a pipeline of talent for the UHB. Thank you to everyone involved in this programme of work, including our fantastic apprentices, for all your efforts.

If you would like further information please contact Emma Bendle, Apprenticeship & Widening Access Co-ordinator at emma.bendle@wales.nhs.uk or follow @CAVAApprentice on Twitter.

Work concludes on the UHW Lakeside Wing

Construction on the Lakeside Wing, which is based on the grounds of the University Hospital of Wales (UHW) site, has finished with the building officially handed over to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CAVUHB).

As of Monday 8 February, building work on the new surge facility has been completed, just 20 weeks after construction first started. This means that the ownership of the modular build has been given to the Health Board from the primary contactors, Darwin Group Ltd.

[Read more about the latest news on our website.](#)



Significant Milestone for Video Consultations

Last week, our Video Consultation passed an incredible milestone as we estimate that it has now prevented more than 200,000 miles of patient travel to attend around 10,000 hours of hospital appointments.

The NHS Wales Video Consultation Service has been a real success since its introduction in April last year, enabling patients to attend their hospital appointment via video from the comfort of their own home or without having to leave work. It has played a significant role in many of our services being able to continue seeing patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and by limiting the number of people on site has helped to facilitate social distancing.

There was a new record set for the number for consultations held every week during January, culminating in 1,146 video consultations being held in the last week of the month.

It adds up to fewer journeys to and from our sites for patients, which as well as being more convenient is of real benefit to the environment too. We estimate that around 56 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been prevented since April.

We've long been planning to introduce video consultations as an option to offer healthcare sustainably, closer to people's homes. We know that they don't suit all circumstances, but our clinicians are still exploring how we can get the best out of them, driving forward a valuable service for as many patient groups as possible. Through our digital strategy I'm looking forward to seeing where this exciting work will take us.

New Blood Cancer Clinical Trials Announced

On World Cancer Day last week, it was announced that Cardiff and Vale UHB will be delivering new clinical trials for blood cancer patients in south Wales, as part of the Trials Acceleration Programme (TAP).

The Health Board is one of 12 centres across the UK that form the TAP Network, funded by blood cancer charity, Cure Leukaemia to deliver clinical trials that aim to transform outcomes for patients with blood cancer.

These new trials are excellent news for people with blood cancer, and send a clear message that despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain committed to undertaking research activity to identify and assess promising new treatments

That's something that remains incredibly important because access to pioneering treatments through clinical trials such as these can give hope to patients who in some cases may have otherwise exhausted all of the existing treatment options available to them.

Our Research and Development department is funded by Welsh Government through Health and Care Research Wales, which works in partnership with the NHS, universities and stakeholders to fund, support and increase life changing research.

[Find out more about the new blood cancer clinical trials.](#)

Doing things differently – Online Event with the Bevan Commission

I will be taking part in an online discussion panel event on February 11, 3pm-4.30pm, led by the Bevan Commission in partnership with the Institute of Welsh Affairs, Welsh NHS Confederation, Social Care Wales and CHCs.

The event is the second in a series looking at the tough choices facing health and care in Wales as it responds to and recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will focus on the issues of supply and demand, how we will deal with the rise in waiting lists, how we will manage expectations and what changes we can build on.

[Here's the link to book places](#) - it would be great if you share with your networks.

I hope to see you there, albeit virtually!

Tell us about pharmacy services in your area

We're looking to hear from those in Cardiff and the Vale who use their local pharmacy for themselves or someone else. This is to help us plan for services for our patients now and in the future to make sure they meet your needs, using a process called a 'pharmaceutical needs assessment'.

Your answers will help us identify if there are any service gaps, for example whether a pharmacy is needed in a particular area, or whether more pharmacies need to provide a particular service.

Your views are important to us so please spare a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. The questionnaire is anonymous and any information you give will not be linked to you.

Complete the survey in either [English](#) or [Welsh](#) by the closing date of 15 February.

Office365 Training

If you want to improve your Office365 skills, there are training sessions available to you throughout February.

[View them here.](#)



Other News and Events

James' Everest run

James Joseph has raised over £1000 for our Health Charity's Breast Centre appeal by repeatedly running up Custom House Hill in Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan until he reached the equivalent height of Mount Everest (29,029ft) throughout January.

[Read more](#)

Drinking water bottle refill scheme launches at St. David's Hospital

As part of an ongoing project funded by Cardiff & Vale Health Charity, two new water refill stations have been installed at St. David's Hospital for patients, visitors and staff to fill up their reusable water bottles for free.

[Read more](#)

Words Bruise – Nathan Wyburn

Words Bruise is a new piece of artwork by Nathan Wyburn commissioned by the UHB and the Wales Millennium centre. It is made up of negative words and phrases used on social media that have been directed at NHS staff from Cardiff and Vale during the Coronavirus pandemic.

[Read more](#)

Proudly Supporting Children's Rights during Children's Mental Health Week

Cardiff & Vale Health Charity was delighted to support, from Covid-19 funds, an animation specifically aimed at training staff about their legal and professional obligation of embedding Children's Rights in to their practice.

[Read more](#)

January Staff Lottery winners

[Click here](#) to see your Staff Lottery winners for January 2021.