



Dear Colleague,

14/12/2022

In light of the news surrounding an increase in streptococcal A (Strep A) bacterial infection in Wales and across the UK, we are working closely with Public Health Wales, Local Authorities, and other partners to reassure parents and families of the support and information available to them. We have also been working with partners to help minimise impact on our front line primary, community and secondary care services, and support colleagues with the additional demand on services.

Group A streptococcus (GAS) can cause a range of infections, which are mild in most cases. One of these infections that needs further action is scarlet fever. In rare cases, such infections can lead to invasive group A streptococcal infection (iGAS). Public Health Wales has confirmed that cases of iGAS remain rare in Wales and the UK, and that children have a very low risk of contracting the disease. [For more information, including frequently asked questions please visit the Public Health Wales website.](#)

There is also local advice available to help support parents and families by providing guidance on the symptoms to look for and when to seek urgent medical advice. [If you are concerned about Strep A please visit the Health Board's website for the latest information.](#)

You will be aware, respiratory viruses including COVID-19, flu and RSV, continue to circulate within our communities and in the hospitals. To help keep patients, colleagues and visitors safe and prevent the spread of infection, we strongly encourage the wearing of face coverings across hospital settings.

Within clinical areas and where colleagues are patient facing, masks are required to be worn by colleagues at all times. The Health Board is mandating this advice to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses during the winter months to help protect patients, colleagues and visitors and to maintain business continuity.

We would also like to remind patients and visitors of the importance of wearing a face covering when attending sites.

We will continue to monitor the prevalence of respiratory conditions within the community and review our approach over the winter period. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation on this.

### **Four wins at the Advancing Healthcare Awards 2022**

Colleagues from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board have been recognised for their important and innovative work at this year's Advancing Healthcare Awards.

The Cardiff and Vale UHB Rehabilitation Model Team were overall winners on the night, and also picked up the award for Excellence in Rehabilitation. The model developed by the team is recovery-focused, addressing health inequalities by optimising health and supporting self-management



Other winners on the night include Orla Adams, Dietetic Lead for Maternal Weight Management. Orla won the Award for Improving Public Health Outcomes. The innovative project focuses on minimising weight gain in pregnancy for women with a BMI >40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and increasing women's engagement in the weight management pathway post-partum, reducing risk to mother and baby.

Judyth Jenkins, a now retired Head of Nutrition and Dietetic Services at the Health Board, was awarded Allied Health Professional of the Year. Judyth demonstrated inspirational leadership throughout her service, even putting on hold plans to retire in 2020 to continue supporting the NHS during the pandemic. She has worked

tirelessly and passionately advocating for the role of nutrition in bettering the health and wellbeing of the population.

Well done to everybody involved in these areas of work.

## Eye on the prize at the annual Opticians Awards

The NHS Wales University Eye Care Centre was recently awarded with the coveted Enhanced Optical Service Award at this year's Optician Awards.



The award, which looked to identify a centre or practice offering excelled enhanced services and care in the community was won by our teams for the work done to improve access to eye care and support the recovery of services to pre-pandemic levels.

Set up in partnership with Cardiff University, the centre enables patients with glaucoma and medical retina conditions to be independently managed by optometrists under the supervision of experienced and qualified specialist optometrists. Congratulations to the team on this excellent achievement.

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## Take part in the Caring for Carers survey

If you are an unpaid carer or work for an organisation that provide or signpost to respite services, please take five minutes to complete the 'Caring for Carers' survey, with the aim of learning more about the respite options available in Cardiff.

Versh Sood, Dementia Improvement and Development Manager for Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board, attended the launch this week. The survey is now open for responses and will close on 8th January 2023.

Paper copies of the consultation will be available within Community Hubs and other community locations. If you require a paper copy please contact [agefriendly@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:agefriendly@cardiff.gov.uk) and they can be sent out to you. Alternatively, the [Caring for Carers survey can be completed online.](#)

Please share the survey with anyone you think will be able to help.

## Check out the People Health and Wellbeing Service refurbishment

Cardiff & Vale Health Charity has recently been working with the People Health and Wellbeing Service at University Hospital of Wales to provide a fresh new look to the department. In need of a makeover, the walls were given a coat of paint, and new flooring was laid in preparation for an array of vinyls to add colour and brighten up the area. The charity was also able to provide new furniture in the form of chairs, sofas, and coffee tables.

[Find out more about the improving works which were supported by Cardiff & Vale Health Charity.](#)

