

## HEE NW COVID 19 Update Bulletin 26 March

This update covers education and training actions

Please see the dedicated HEE webpage which will be regularly updated:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19>

### National:

#### Communications to doctors in training

Regular communications with doctors in training is occurring on a rolling basis. Doctors in training are encouraged to report any concerns to their TPD/Head of School and trust Director of Medical Education in order to consider what needs to be done. HEE is supporting winter pressures safely through managed education and training programmes guidance.

Redeployment of Foundation doctors from community to acute providers, as needed. Redeployment of other grades of junior doctors as needed by acute providers.

[The guidance is here](#) (national)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 Rotation

The default position is that this will now NOT occur. Please let us know if any concerns.

The letter can be found [here](#)

#### ARCPs

These will occur but by virtual panels and feedback does not need to be given face to face even for non-standard outcomes. Guidance for this will be sent out on a rolling basis.

Educational supervisor reports may become crucial, can we encourage supervisors to make sure that they are as good as they can be.

There will be no Penultimate Year Assessments (PYA's) - see letter [here](#) (national with local implementation)

#### Recruitment and selection centres

Many of these are being cancelled with information to be found on HEE's website here:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/coronavirus-information-trainees>

Other methods are being developed by HEE nationally, as national processes are still required.

#### Medical Schools Council

Plans are in place to graduate as many doctors as possible where it is safe to do so with an update [here](#).

#### HEE National Statement on Study Leave

The study leave document is [here](#) (national)

Trainees should endeavour to obtain a refund for any pre-booked expenses. If they are unable to do so we will honour the claim, but they should provide evidence when they submit their claim that the expense was non-refundable.

All requests for study leave time not taken during the outbreak will be properly considered by the employers and Postgraduate deans and will be subject to the need to maintain NHS services, and training requirements for completion of programmes.

When organisations cancel courses and training, can the Postgraduate dean and their team please ensure that provision for essential courses such as ALS is still available to ensure patient safety remains a priority. We are asking all parties to be flexible both during and after this difficult time.

### **Academic Doctors In Training**

Have been asked to return to the clinical service

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Letter%20to%20medical%20academic%20trainees%20and%20medical%20trainees.pdf>

### **Dentists in Training**

All four nations have taken a decision to cancel all non-essential teaching with immediate effect. Alternative modes of delivery are being explored. [Letter is here.](#)

### **Quality Processes**

Routine quality visits have been cancelled. Quality issues will still require monitoring and this will be done as pragmatically and supportively as possible. See

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/healthcare%20education%20quality%20visits%20statement.pdf>

Though many have cancelled all training and education events can we please ensure that vital training such as resuscitation are provided where needed.

F2 doctors that are being redeployed may need this.

All doctors in training still require and induction and appropriate supervision.

The GMC has decided to postpone this year's national training surveys, which were due to launch on 24 March 2020. They will continue to monitor the situation and hope to run them later this year.

### **Multi-professional Training Needs**

Students on Placement are encouraged to liaise with both their placement provider and their HEI, to seek both support and the latest guidance.

### **Simulation Training**

National scoping is occurring on what HEE could provide.

Simulation guidance can be found [here](#).

### **Health Care Science Recruitment**

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic Health Education England and the National School of Healthcare Science have made the decision to cancel the interview event for admission to the Scientist Training Programme. The interview event was due to take place between 23 March and 23 April with a total of 1100 applicants being interviewed by over 450 scientists.

Given the ongoing situation, it will not be able to organise another interview event on this scale in time for admission to the programme in September and we will, therefore, look to develop an alternative selection process urgently.

### **E-Learning for Health COVID-19 resources:**

[https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Catalogue/Index?HierarchyId=0\\_45016&programmeld=45016](https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Catalogue/Index?HierarchyId=0_45016&programmeld=45016)

### **North West:**

### **Quality**

During the time of increased system pressure, and in line with national advice we have taken the decision to suspend all face to face quality interventions. The Quality Team will be in touch to stand down those directly involved in events.

Activity by Trusts on the HEE NW Self Assessment Report should also be suspended, work already entered into the electronic system should be saved and we will be in touch again later in the year to update you with you next steps.

The usual escalation of concerns processes apply via your usual contacts.

### **Whole system approach to Foundation rotations – good practice item**

Foundation trainees are due to rotate to their final placements on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Health Education England has issued a statement that this rotation of trainees should now not go ahead, in order not to add the burden of inductions to units already at full stretch fighting the COVID-19 crisis. Remaining in their current placement for 8 months is, in some individual cases, not ideal from an educational point of view. There is, however, the facility to continue with rotation if individual circumstances allow.

We are asking Trusts to assess the risk of not rotating/rotating on an individual basis so as not to strip trainees out of General Practice and Mental Health, where they could be very valuable in the fight against COVID-19. We want a 'whole-system' approach to the crisis.

The best example of good leadership and a whole-system approach is by the Foundation programme hosted at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (the Royal Liverpool University Hospital programme). This programme plans to halt rotations for the majority of their Foundation trainees in April as directed.

Trainees currently in mental health rotate back to the acute site, but others rotate in to mental health as planned, rather than freezing these rotations and leaving trainees in psychiatry for 8 months. General Practice placements they are assessing on a practice by practice basis – we know some are able to train in the current crisis but others are not.

The rest do not rotate as per the national guidance.

### **Advice for pregnant women during COVID 19 pandemic**

Last night there was advice issued from the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

### **Occupational health advice for employers and pregnant women during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Everyone in the UK is advised to follow guidance on social distancing measures to reduce social interaction between people in order to lessen the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Latest guidance recommends that pregnant women under 28 weeks' gestation (in the first and second trimester of pregnancy) with no underlying health conditions, should follow the guidance on social distancing in the same way as the general population.

Subject to taking social distancing precautions in the work environment, in the same way as other colleagues, pregnant women under 28 weeks gestation may continue to work as normal. However pregnant women from 28 weeks' gestation (in the third trimester of pregnancy), and pregnant women with underlying health conditions, such as lung or heart disease, may experience more severe symptoms of the virus and are therefore advised to take a more precautionary approach and are strongly advised to follow social distancing advice.

This guidance sets out how working pregnant women in healthcare settings can achieve the recommendations for social distancing. Some of this advice will also be relevant to pregnant workers in a range of other work settings.

Healthcare workers prior to 28 weeks' gestation

It may not be possible to completely avoid caring for all patients with COVID-19. As for all healthcare workers, use of PPE and risk assessments according to current guidance will provide pregnant workers with protection from infection. The arrival of rapid COVID-19 testing will significantly assist in organising care provision, and this guidance will be updated appropriately when such tests are commonly available.

**Some working environments (e.g. operating theatres, respiratory wards and intensive care/high dependency units) carry a higher risk for pregnant women of exposure to the virus through the greater number of AGPs performed. These procedures are summarised in the publication *Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control*. When caring for suspected or COVID-19 patients all healthcare workers in these settings are recommended to use appropriate PPE. Where possible, pregnant women are advised to avoid working in these areas with suspected or COVID-19 patients.**

Each school is reviewing the advice and what it means in the context of your specialty specific working environment, advice will be issued from each school to educators and trainees by close of business Monday 23 March 2020.

### Further Information

To help track and coordinate responses, please direct queries or issues to:  
[quality.nw@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:quality.nw@hee.nhs.uk)

## Useful on-line resources

**HEE's national update page:**

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/coronavirus-information-trainees>

**The Lancet – COVID 19 Resource Centre - Clinical Information open access**

<https://www.thelancet.com/coronavirus>

**UK Government**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

**General Medical Council**

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/news/news-archive/guidance-regarding-medical-education-and-training-supporting-the-covid-19-response>

**General Medical Council**

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/news/news-archive/coronavirus-information-and-advice>

**General Dental Council**

<https://www.gdc-uk.org/information-standards-guidance/covid-19-latest-guidance>

**Heath and Care Professions Council**

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/registrants/updates/2020/how-we-will-continue-to-regulate-in-light-of-novel-coronavirus/>

**Nursing and Midwifery Council**

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/news/news-and-updates/how-we-will-continue-to-regulate-in-light-of-novel-coronavirus/>

**Simulation**

<https://stel.bmj.com/content/early/2020/03/11/bmjstel-2020-000609/>

**World Health Organisation**

COVID-19 Online training and simulation

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/training/>

<https://openwho.org/courses/>