

COVID-19 - guidance on education, training and workforce

This page links to resources from statutory bodies around the country, including information about medical education, training and workforce.

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18 March 2020

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13 March 2020

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Updates in this version:

- Education, training and working: Link to NHS CE and COO letter published 17.03.20.
- Link to Clinical guidance for the management of paediatric patients during the coronavirus pandemic published 16.03.20 v1

If you need to know what updates occurred on days prior to those specified above, contact us on health.policy@rcpch.ac.uk.

To get an email notification of each update, you can [log in](#) and select the pink button in the grey box 'Notify me when updated'.

Education, training and workforce

Specifically for doctors, the four statutory education bodies (Health Education England, NHS Education for Scotland, Health Education and Improvement Wales and Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency) and the General Medical Council published guidance regarding medical and dental training programmes - [download letter \(pdf\)](#).

This guidance was referred to in a [letter](#) by Sir Simon Stevens, NHS Chief Executive, and

Amanda Pritchard, NHS Chief Operating Officer, that was published on 17 March 2020. The letter sets out actions regarding capacity, preparation for COVID-19 patients, aligning to wider population measures, stress-testing operational readiness and removing routine burdens.

In terms of support for the workforce and maximising availability, the letter notes that:

- PHE have been asked to establish NHS targeted staff testing
- Staff should be offered the option of staying in NHS-reimbursed hotel accommodation if affected by PHE's 14 day household isolation policy
- Staff members at increased risk of infection should have adjustments made for them to work remotely or in lower risk areas.
- The GMC, NMC and other professional regulators are writing to clinicians who have relinquished their licence to practice within the last three years, asking if they would be willing to return to help.
- The Chief Nursing Officer, Chief People Officer and HEE are working to deploy medical and nursing students and clinical academics, in partnership with regulators and universities.
- All appropriate registered nurses, midwives and AHPs in non-patient facing roles will be asked to support direct clinical practice.
- Referring to the HEE, NHSE, HEIW and NIMDTA guidance: it will be appropriate and necessary for clinicians to work beyond their usual disciplinary boundaries and specialisms.

The need to work outside specific areas of training and expertise is echoed in the [paediatric clinical guide for the management of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), published on 16 March 2020.

Health Education England sent a letter to trusts and GP practices on 10 March 2020 to reiterate and reinforces its guidance developed for winter pressures and flu management. It provides information about the plans and contingency for management of medical and dental training programmes during emergent phases of the COVID-19 outbreak - [download letter from HEE website](#).

The UK Chief Medical Officers, General Medical Council and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges have published a letter to doctors to emphasise that they will have their support in the event of a COVID-19 epidemic in the UK - [download letter](#).

A number of government agencies across the four nations of the UK have published guidance for health professionals regarding COVID-19. These provide information for those, including doctors, working in a range of settings.

England - Guidance for health professionals

- [NHS England- Guidance for clinicians](#)
- [COVID-19 resources from PHE](#)
- [Secondary Care guidance from NHS England](#)
- [Primary Care guidance from NHS England](#)
- [Community Health and Ambulance guidance from NHS England](#)

- [Paediatric Intensive Care Society COVID-19 resources](#)
- [PICS Standards](#)
- [COVID-19: guidance for health professionals](#)
- [COVID-19: infection and control guidance](#)
- [BMJ COVID-19 resources](#)

Scotland - Guidance for health professionals

- [Guidance for professionals](#)

Wales - Guidance for health professionals

- [Wales Gov: COVID 19](#)
- [Latest information on COVID-19](#)

Northern Ireland - Guidance for health professionals

- [HSCNI:COVID-19](#)
- [Updates for COVID-19](#)