

Dear Colleagues

This week we have seen the death toll from COVID-19 in the UK pass 100,000 with more than 4700 of those in Wales and still, the NHS remains under considerable pressure. Thankfully the community transmission rates in Wales are falling and we are now beginning to see a reduction in our hospital admissions. The vaccination programme is rolling out at pace in all regions of Wales and the UK, bringing us hope that we may enjoy a summer with more freedom and the opportunity once again to visit family and friends.

As we enter February, many of you will be rotating to new posts this week. Although the pressures remain significant in hospitals we have decided to proceed with rotations and are grateful to our Health Board partners for supporting us with this. We feel the advantages significantly outweigh any disadvantages. There are however some important points to remember:

1. Despite the current service pressures, you must receive a high-quality induction and be made aware of the identity of your named clinical supervisor. If not then please discuss with your educational supervisor and /or the local Postgraduate department as soon as you can.
2. Some trainees who are rotating to a new Health Board have raised concerns about where they will get their second vaccine dose. Current guidance states that the Health Board responsible for giving the first dose will also be responsible for giving the second, but we are confident that there will be flexibility for trainees who rotate to new Health Boards. We have raised this issue with the group overseeing the vaccine roll out and will update you with information when it becomes available.
3. If you have concerns now or in the forthcoming weeks about these or any other issues relating to your training, then let us know via HEIW.Open@wales.nhs.uk and we will support you to resolve them.

Whether you are rotating or not, redeployed or not please continue to look after yourselves and each other and ask for help if you need it. We've still got some tough weeks ahead, but we can be confident that better times are now in sight.

My thanks and best wishes to you all

Dr Tom Lawson
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