



Welsh Government/ HEIW Position statement Student key worker status 18.09.20.

This position statement confirms medical, nursing, midwifery, allied health profession and healthcare science students as having continued key worker status when undertaking practice placements¹ as part of their programme of learning.

Welsh Government/ Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) recognise the valued contribution students have made to health and care delivery throughout pandemic conditions. With a move beyond student contract deployment and regulatory emergency standards to 'new normal' placement arrangements, the input students continue to make in enhancing care provision alongside their personal learning is considerable.

Universities, Placement Providers and all key stakeholders have revised arrangements in place to enable students (subject to individual risk assessment), to continue placement learning opportunities and work towards the timely completion of programme requirements notwithstanding the continuing impact of pandemic conditions.

A set of All Wales COVID-19 Placement Recovery Principles provide guidance for Placement Providers, Universities and key bodies in relation to placement learning in COVID-19 adapted circumstances: <https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/all-wales-covid-19-placement-recovery-principles/>; <https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/covid-19-principles-for-restarting-med-ed/>

Welsh Government/ HEIW confirm that medical and healthcare students will continue to retain key worker status whilst undertaking practice placements and access necessary documentation to substantiate this.

Welsh Government/ HEIW recognise that as key workers, students may also be required to cross localised lockdown boundaries in order to continue their placement experience. Wherever possible, Universities and Placement Providers will work to support students' continuation of their allocated placement. In doing so, students must adhere to all safety guidance from a national and local organisational perspective.

Links:

All Wales COVID-19 Workforce Risk Assessment Tool: <https://gov.wales/checkyourrisk>
Life Assurance scheme (including students on placement):
<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-and-social-care-coronavirus-life-assurance-scheme-2020-wales>

¹ 'Reasonable excuse' to enter or leave a COVID-19 restricted boundary includes "travel for work or education" (COVID-19 update 16.09.20. Welsh Minister for Health and Social Services).