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Addysg a Gwella Iechyd
Cymru (AaGIC)
Health Education and
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Our Ref: DFT/COVID-19/ES/V4final

Date: 05/11/2020

Health Education and Improvement Wales
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Dear Educational Supervisor,

Re: Covid-19 and Dental Foundation Training

You will know that many of our Foundation Dentists are anxious and concerned about the impact on their Dental Foundation Training from the Covid-19 pandemic and recent measures, outlined by the government and others.

I confirm that HEIW will make reasonable and appropriate decisions about the impact of these factors when considering satisfactory completion later in the year. We are in exceptional times and new territory. Measures taken to prevent, and treat, Covid-19 will disrupt FD training as we currently know and understand it.

I confirm that HEIW has postponed planned study days across all Dental Foundation, Core and Dental Therapist Foundation Training schemes initially for the next 12 weeks. This will be reviewed as the situation evolves. We are intending to deliver alternative remote learning modules and other online forums– but all face to face teaching is postponed at present. Your TPD will advise you on any developments concerning this.

Regarding other events in the DFT calendar, we are exploring the possibility of continuing to hold the ES interviews and the MES events remotely. We will be in touch with you regarding this over the next few weeks. Our team has also agreed to postpone HEIW practice visits and all Buddy ADEPTs.

I have requested that our TPDs contact each of our FDs over the next week and beyond. They will reassure them that we are all working together to make the best of this fluid and difficult time. We will also discuss with them how they can best support the NHS as the situation develops.

Our TPDs will work to understand your situation so we can give the best possible advice and support to you and your FD. I understand that Health Boards have been re-assuring regarding the stability of existing NHS contracts during this difficult time.

Please do not hesitate to escalate any concerns that you have with training and education to your Scheme TPD.

The latest advice from the Chief Dental Officer issued today and the joint statement from the four Nations has already been sent to you.

Should you need to isolate under any of the conditions outlined in the latest guidance from Public Health Wales <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>, please inform your TPD.

Of course, we are in a rapidly developing situation and things may change quickly. I will endeavour to keep you up to date with events on a regular basis and I really appreciate your help and support at this difficult time.

Kind regards

Professor David Thomas

Postgraduate Dental Dean