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Staff Newsletter



ISSUE 20 12th January 2022



Message from Glyn Jones, Interim Chief Executive

Shwmae pawb / hello all, welcome to this week's newsletter.

I'd like to start by wishing you all a very happy new year, and by thanking all of our staff who worked so hard over the festive period. While Christmas and New Year may seem like a distant memory now, I hope you all managed to find time to relax with your loved ones.

I'm really pleased to read that so many positive changes are being made from applications to our work place environment fund. If there is anything that can make your time in work more comfortable- for you, or your patients- I would urge you to put your suggestions forward.

As we move forward into 2022, let's hope the New Year brings some positive changes. I'd also like to take this time to remind you that your health and well-being is vitally important, so please take the time to check in with yourself and your colleagues.

Take care,

Glyn

Funding for Workplace Improvements

Does your work area need sprucing up for the New Year?

To recognise the efforts of all our staff during these difficult times, a new £1 million fund has been set up to improve staff work areas and to enhance patient care – you can now apply for a range of items or works to do this.

Around £700,000 has already been committed to date, so please get your bids in quickly to avoid disappointment.

Things that have already been successfully bid for include:

- Medical equipment to support training
- Painting of rooms
- Chairs and furniture
- Fridges, microwaves and kettles
- Carpets and blinds

We're really keen to make your time in work more comfortable and enjoyable, so if you have a suggestion that could improve the environment for you or your patients, please contact your line manager or budget holder. Items must be below the value of £5,000 and purchased through agreed Health Board procurement procedures. Items must also be purchased and delivered before 31st March 2022.

Further information on the Work Place Environment Fund can be found on the Intranet at:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/news/69087>





Extra Day Annual Leave and Pay Enhancements

The Welsh Government has announced that all NHS Wales staff will be rewarded with an extra annual leave day. This additional day will be pro rata and will be recurrent in future years. In addition to this, staff will be given the opportunity to sell any annual leave they have been unable to claim for the 2021/22 year.

The arrangements for the processes around selling leave are currently being organised on an All Wales basis, and we will share details on the Intranet and in this Newsletter once further guidance is available.

This year's pay circular also sees a one off non-consolidated additional payment of 1% for those on Agenda for Change bands 1-5, and the F1 doctors who fall into these pay bands.

Find out more about pay and annual leave arrangements for employees at: [2021 - Pay Enhancements - 02_2021 - PDF.pdf \(wales.nhs.uk\)](#)

Essential Visiting Reminder

Due to the increasing challenges faced as a result of the new Omicron variant, and in order to protect the safety of patients and staff, the Health Board will now be operating essential-only visiting to our hospital wards.

These changes do not include paediatrics and neonates, where a maximum of two visitors per day is recommended.

We ask you to support essential visits wherever possible and include the following examples:

- A birth partner supporting a woman during hospital visits and during labour;
- A person receiving end-of-life care and in their final hours;
- To support someone with a mental health issue, dementia, autism or a learning disability where not being present would cause the patient distress;
- To accompany a child who is required to attend hospital;
- In situations when someone is receiving information about life-changing illness or treatments.



All visitors must not have any symptoms of Covid-19 and must provide evidence of a negative lateral flow test result. Additionally, they must wear a face mask (unless exempt) and adhere to physical distancing and hand hygiene requirements.

We'd like to remind all staff that any visiting arrangements must be arranged with the ward in advance and any visitors attending the hospital without pre-arrangement should not be permitted entry.

Thank you for your continued support, hard work and dedication during these challenging times.

Covid-19 Update

The number of staff testing positive for Covid-19 is rising. Knowing that the Omicron variant is more transmissible, we would ask staff to please adhere to the following fundamental principles to help reduce the risk of Covid-19 within the workplace.

- Work from home where able
- Open windows to ensure adequate ventilation
- Maintain 2m social distancing
- Complete frequent cleaning of touch points and communal equipment
- Wear a face covering, ensuring that it is worn correctly.
- Complete regular handwashing with soap and water, accompanied by hand sanitiser.
- Avoid car sharing unless absolutely necessary.

To coincide with the new changes to Welsh Government Guidance for LFT testing, new guidance for all Health Board staff includes:

- Always take a Lateral Flow Test before each shift
- If you have Covid Symptoms arrange a PCR test via 0300 30 31 222

Please see the Intranet for more information: <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/lateral-flow-device-information/>

Animation in a Cinema Near You!

If you've visited a cinema in our Health Board area in the past week, you will have seen our brand new animation!

The short film explains the different services available when you need medical help, and is a prequel to a longer production that will be released in a few weeks' time.



The animation launched in Cineworld Newport, Vue Cwmbran and Maxime Blackwood cinemas last week and will run until the end of January. So if you're planning a trip to the cinema to beat those January blues, keep your eyes peeled for our short film!

You can watch the animation at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNkR0QgkAGg>

Outreach Engagement



Over Christmas, our staff really went above and beyond; bringing the magic of Christmas to many Asylum Seeker and Refugee families across Gwent.

In December, over 900 presents were collected and wrapped, along with £350 worth of ASDA vouchers and 100 reconditioned laptops for families in need here in Gwent. The Health Inclusion Service then set out and delivered the gifts personally to the families. As well as bringing some smiles to faces, the team were able to engage with families, undertake vital physical and mental

well-being checks, verify immunisation statuses and register them with local GPs. We couldn't have wished for a more successful activity!

Thank you to Senior Health Promotion Specialist, Jackie Williams, and Senior Nurse for the Health Inclusion Service, Star Moyo, their teams and every single one of our generous staff members who donated.

Star said: **"The excitement and joy from both parents and children was just overwhelming."**

We would also like to thank Newport and Usk Vale Lions Rugby Club, The Usk Pantomime Group and the Celtic Manor, who each provided gifts, donations and food for the families.



Staff Flu Programme



In the current climate, it's easy to forget that flu is a real threat- not just to yourself, but also to your loved ones, work colleagues and patients. The Flu vaccine remains very much an essential tool in fighting winter viruses.

The Staff Flu vaccine is available to every employee. You can access further information from our [intranet page](#) or attend one of our drop in clinics shown below.

If you have already had the Flu vaccine elsewhere (GP, Pharmacist or another Health Board), it is important to tell us. To allow us to capture this information and ensure we are not wasting resources that would be better used elsewhere, please complete the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/6FjqGWmBAi>

In the same way, please tell us if you don't want to take up the offer of a Flu vaccine. The information recorded on this form is anonymous, but will allow us to capture intelligence around the reasons behind staff not coming forward for their flu vaccines. This form can be found at: <https://forms.office.com/r/NkuALeMrq2>

Day	Time	Venue	Site
Every Monday	09:00 – 11:30 13:00 – 15:30	Occupational Health Department	3 rd Floor, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr
Every Tuesday	09:00 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:30	Occupational Health Department	Nevill Hall (Cartrefle House)
Every Thursday	09:00 – 11:30 13:00 – 15:30	Occupational Health Department	St Woolos (top floor in B Block)

If you have any ideas for this fortnightly newsletter, please send an e-mail to ABB.CommsAndEngagement@wales.nhs.uk



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board



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