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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Office of the Chief Nursing Officer

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Chief Executive Officers Health Boards/Trusts
Medical Directors
Nurse Directors
Chief Operating Officers
Directors of Planning
Lead IP&C Nurses
Leads Estate Management

Dear Colleagues

Infection Prevention & Control Revised Guidance 2020

Please find below the link to the recently published UK Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) Guidance, revised following the initial response to COVID-19.

The document sets out revised IP&C advice for health and care organisations as the UK moves to remobilise healthcare services.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910885/COVID-19 Infection prevention and control guidance FINAL PDF 20082020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910885/COVID-19_Infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_FINAL_PDF_20082020.pdf)

The document will apply to all health and care settings in Wales, including for example mental health and learning disabilities, primary care, care homes and independent sector. It includes key IPC control recommendations, including risk assessed patient pathway scenarios to help guide the implementation of measures to provide safe and effective care locally, all based on the best available evidence. Additional direction on implementation of this revised UK guidance in the social care setting will follow shortly.

The challenge facing the NHS is to remobilise healthcare services and increase NHS capacity whilst providing a safe and equitable service for staff, visitors and patients including those with COVID-19 related problems.

The remobilisation of services requires new ways of working and, as COVID-19 becomes endemic, guidance for working in a new healthcare environment will need



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to be developed and updated based upon emerging evidence, experience and expert opinion.

The document refers to guidance on mask wearing which is currently applicable in England & Scotland. We have not mandated the wearing of masks in non-clinical settings in Wales, a position that remains under continuous review and which may change if COVID-19 transmission or prevalence increases.

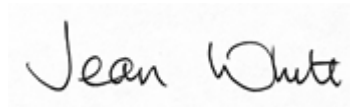
NICE has also published a COVID-19 Rapid Guideline: arranging planned care in hospitals and diagnostic services, which should also be considered when planning any return of services: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng179/resources/covid19-rapid-guideline-arranging-planned-care-in-hospitals-and-diagnostic-services-pdf-66141969613765>

We wish to thank you and your staff for your continued efforts in adapting to overcome the challenges of providing services to patients in the current circumstances.

Yours faithfully



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