

Your Local Health News

Welcome to the latest version of 'Your Local Health News'. Over the last few months, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the way we have had to work, but we are delighted to be back and bringing you the latest news and developments from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Happy Birthday NHS!!

On Sunday 5th July, the NHS turned 72!

As a way of marking the birthday, we wanted to thank everyone that has supported the NHS during the Coronavirus pandemic by coming together to applaud the commitment, courage and sacrifice shown by so many and a special doorstep clap was held at 5pm nationwide. Our staff wanted to thank YOU for thanking us and for your continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic by filming a short video message that you can access using the link below:

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/news/news/the-health-boards-thank-you-to-you/>



THANK YOU!
#NHS72



Board Meeting Live

On Wednesday 15th July 2020, the Health Board held a meeting, which was streamed live via Youtube, as part of our arrangements during the Pandemic. This was done to ensure we continued to support our commitment to openness and transparency as an organisation.

The Board endorsed our Quarter Two Operational Plan and held discussions about our continuing response to the Pandemic, the ways in which we are restarting our services and our plans going into the winter period.

The Board also discussed the progress that has been made with inter-site patient transport, which is always an essential feature for the safe and timely movement of patients between care settings, but a particular priority for the Health Board as our system and model will change with the planned opening of The Grange University Hospital. The Board supported the proposals being made and for this work to be taken forward particularly with our partners in the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust. The Board also approved a new Energy Strategy and also had discussions around our financial position, performance of our services, and the current profile of our risks across the organisation and an update on the work of our Health Board's Committees.



Restarting Our Services

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption to our NHS services. The Health Board has continued to provide care as normal to patients who need urgent treatments (through A&E, cancer services etc.) although many routine appointments and treatments have been postponed. As we see fewer COVID-19 cases in our hospitals, we will restart many of the routine services that have been put on hold. The Health Board has published the following advice and information on the website:

"If you are required to attend one of our hospital sites or community clinics, you will find that the way they are run has now been altered slightly to accommodate social distancing regulations. If you have a specific question relating to your personal circumstances, please contact your GP or call the number on your appointment letter. To enquire about or change an appointment date, please call our Booking Centre on 01495 765055. Please note - if you are having Elective Surgery at one of our Hospitals, you will be given a Covid-19 test and then asked to self-isolate before your admission into Hospital."

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/restarting-services/restarting-services/>

Ministers Visit

On Wednesday 22nd July 2020 staff at the Royal Gwent Hospital had the opportunity to meet Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Health and Social Care in Wales, as he thanked them for their amazing work throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Minister was accompanied by Jayne Bryant MS, the Senedd Member for Newport West. They spoke with a range of staff members including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, domestic staff, porters, student nurses and operational staff about the roles they have played in the fight so far against Coronavirus.



Many staff members explained how they had transformed their usual places of work because of COVID-19, and described the challenges they have risen to and overcome together.

Revised Guidance for Visiting Hospitals

On the 16th of July 2020, Welsh Government issued revised guidance for hospital visiting in Wales. The Health Board, as a result, changed some of the restrictions around visiting, but emphasised that strict rules must remain in place to protect staff, patients and visitors.

We must continue to restrict the number of visitors in healthcare settings to ensure that we adhere to Social Distancing guidelines. Visiting will be at the discretion of the Nurse in charge of the ward or department and permission will be given based on the best interests of the patient and/or the wellbeing of the visitor.

Unfortunately, these changes do not mean we return to 'business as usual' in relation to visiting. We realise the positive impact visiting can have on both patients and their

families, however, visiting will remain restricted to ensure we keep our patients, staff and visitors as safe as possible during this challenging time.

Visiting, with agreement from the Ward Sister/Charge Nurse/Nurse in Charge, can be arranged as long as; visitors do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, or are recovering from COVID-19 and have not been knowingly exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Usually one visitor per patient will be permitted, with some exceptions, such as for end of life care.

The guidance also outlines changes to maternity services. Women can now be accompanied by their partner/nominated other when attending Hospital for the following reasons:

- 12-Week Pregnancy Dating Scan
- Early Pregnancy Clinic
- Anomaly Scan
- Attendance at Fetal Medicine Department

For more information, please see the link below:

<https://gov.wales/hospital-visiting-during-coronavirus-outbreak-guidance-effective-20-july-2020>

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

CAMHS has remained fully operational during the pandemic and used virtual communication, telehealth and social media to provide advice, information and interventions for children, young people and their families. Our clinicians were incredibly busy making over 600 combined welfare calls, requests for support and assessments since March 2020.

Many young people and parents (especially working parents) appreciated this flexibility and the ability to access services after work in the evenings/in their own time and at their own pace. The service was able to maintain contact easily and with more patients than had previously been possible. New referrals had an initial contact, either the same day or within a few days of referral. Clinicians alongside Child Psychology colleagues circulated good practice materials to support families and young people. Resources were developed to help clinicians to continue to deliver good patient centred care.

We recommenced face to face appointments from the 29 June 2020. The CAMHS service is getting back to the level of activity that we managed prior to the pandemic and the service continues to work hard through virtual consultations and tele-health including Attend Anywhere access to ensure that patients don't need to come into hospital unless it is absolutely necessary. We have also undertaken patient experience questionnaires to capture service user views. Feedback has included:

'Thank you so much for your swift response after my phone call today with concerns for my son. The service I received was excellent with my concerns about my son's mental health listened to and the appropriate actions taken with a follow-up consultation planned – thank you!'

COVID Rehabilitation Programme



On Tuesday 7th July, the South Wales Argus and BBC Wales attended the COVID rehab programme that is running at Newport Velodrome.

A number of patients were interviewed to speak about their story of how COVID affected them and how the rehab programme is helping with their recovery.

Lewis Barton, age 30 from Newport, was one of the youngest patients in our Intensive Care Unit with COVID-19. After nearly four weeks in hospital, Lewis is now attending the COVID rehab programme and is finding it a really valuable experience in his recovery.

To find out more about Wales' first COVID-19 rehabilitation programme, visit: <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/news/news/wales-first-post-covid-19-rehabilitation-programme/>

Test, Trace, Protect

The Gwent Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) service has now been up and running since the 1 June 2020. The Health Board is working in partnership with the five Gwent Local Authorities to deliver the service. The service is staffed by a mixture of Health Board and Local Authority staff, including Environmental Health Officers.



The Test, Trace and Protect system is important for helping us live and work alongside the virus while research continues to find more effective treatments and a vaccine.

Anyone that displays symptoms of coronavirus can now book a test online <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

We are asking everyone to help us make testing and contact tracing a success by raising awareness with your friends, family, patients and work colleagues. You can do this by doing the following:

- Follow the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board social media accounts and share official TTP information
- Signpost people to the Welsh Government TTP web pages for further information and frequently asked questions: <http://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-coronavirus>
- For those who do not have access to the internet or need information in easy read format or other languages, we have resources available. Please email: ABB.COVIDCommsHub@wales.nhs.uk for more information

If you have any questions or would like to contact us please email abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board



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