



North Central London
Clinical Commissioning Group

Staff Briefing 7 May 2020

Thank you!

- We have now entered week 8 of our new way of working remotely.
- Jo, Frances and the whole EMT are appreciative of the absolutely outstanding efforts of all staff.
- EMT reflect on the challenges that staff face collectively every week, but we also wanted to acknowledge that we completely understand that everyone will find different ways to cope.
- There is a range of support available to all staff. We recognise it isn't always easy, and likely becoming increasingly difficult.
- If you are having difficulty with anything, please do reach out to your line manager or another colleague.
- We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing resilience all staff have shown and want to acknowledge each and every one of your efforts week in, week out.

Phase 2 of Covid-19 response: System Recovery

- Last week, Simon Stevens and Amanda Pritchard wrote to all Trusts and CCGs in England about preparing and planning for Phase 2 of the response to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- The full letter is available on the [News section of the staff intranet](#).
- Alongside the excellent work being done by staff across the CCG and the wider system to respond now to the Covid-19 pandemic, the NHS is now working with local authorities and other partners to plan for the health and care system of the future.
- We have a proud tradition of neighbourhood, borough and system-wide transformation in NCL, and our commitments to tackle health inequalities, focus on population health management, and improving health outcomes for our local residents, are even more relevant today.

Phase 2 of Covid-19 response: System Recovery

- Across London, each of the five STPs is producing a headline plan for health and care system recovery, for submission to NHS London next week.
- This is often referred to as the “recovery phase” of our response to Covid-19, but it goes beyond that.
- We want to build on our existing programmes of transformation which CCG staff have worked on, and reflect the new challenges posed by the need to care safely and effectively for all people, both those with Covid-19 and those without.
- We have made great progress in making services accessible remotely, and responding very quickly to the needs of people with Covid-19.

Phase 2 of Covid-19 response: System Recovery

- We now need to ensure that we organise our staff, facilities and services across NCL in the best way possible to provide excellent health and care support to the whole population, through development of our integrated care system.
- As we work through this plan we will share more details through staff briefing and other updates.

Supporting Care Homes through Covid-19

- The Covid-19 pandemic poses a significant challenge for care homes. We have been working with care homes and independent sector since the start of the outbreak – aligning with NCL Councils to offer a range of support.
- Last week, Ruth May (Chief Nursing Officer for England) and Matthew Winn (Director of Community Health – NHSE/I) wrote to CCGs across England requesting further assistance for care homes. This includes support for infection prevention and control and a range of support from NHS staff and services.

Supporting Care Homes through Covid-19

- The NHS has been asked to ensure:
 - there is a weekly check-in for homes / residents and MDT support
 - personalised care and support plans
 - pharmacy and medication support
 - primary and community teams working in PCN/coherent geographies
 - out of hours support
 - referrals to secondary care are made where needed
 - monitoring where needed following discharge from either an acute or step-down bed
 - sensitive and collaborative decisions around hospital admissions for care home residents.

Supporting Care Homes through Covid-19

- NCL CCG, has offered via Council Local Resilience Forums to 'train the trainers' in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), building on the existing IPC support Quality has in place.
- Borough partners are working together this week to undertake a 'gap analysis' against national guidance and develop a plan to plug any gaps in local support.
- Wider work continues, working with officers and clinical leads from across the five boroughs and feeding into the Care Homes Oversight Group.

PM announcement on Sunday

- The Prime Minister will be presenting the Government's approach to easing of lockdown restrictions this Sunday.
- We are unsure what will be covered in detail, but expect there will be references to plans to return to work, but that this will be a phased return, possibly over an extended time period.
- We will digest the announcement on Sunday and await guidance from NHS E/I.
- We will provide local guidance following this, and will let you know what it means for our staff when we have worked this through.
- Our staff are our greatest asset and whilst we are in a much better position now than we were a month ago, we will carefully assess the risk before taking any decisions that will affect our staff.

- As staff are aware, in view of the current circumstances regarding Covid-19 and the impact on the CCG's priorities, the NCL Executive Management Team took the decision to pause the consultation process.
- As outlined in Simon Steven's recent letter, we will be now entering the second phase in the NHS's response to the pandemic during which Covid-19 will continue to be categorised as a level 4 national incident.
- Whilst there will continue to be a requirement to support Covid-19 priorities, over the next few weeks it will also be critical for the CCG to work with our partner organisations to step up and re-establish services such as urgent and routine surgery and care, cancer, maternity, community and primary care services.

Consultation

- In view of these continuing priorities, when the time is right, EMT will come together to consider when the CCG may resume any organisational change requirements and processes.
- As always, please speak with your line manager or HR Business Partner if you have any immediate questions or concerns.

Supporting staff during Covid-19: Survey

- Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey – we have had almost 200 responses already.
- The survey will close on Sunday, so if you haven't already completed it, please do so.
- The link was circulated in the HR update last week and also in the newsletter. If you missed these, please email nclccg.communications@nhs.net and the Comms team will send you a link.
- HR will review responses and develop an action plan.
- This will be shared with staff in the coming weeks.

- Unfortunately, the issue around access to the BLUE network drives is ongoing.
- IT is aware of this – it has resulted from a migration of data across to a new cloud based environment which provides increased capacity and stability.
- The migration is putting too much load on the current infrastructure and affecting our ability to access personal / shared data stored on the network.
- The team is currently looking at options to alleviate some of the issues in the interim until the migration work has been completed.
- We appreciate this makes life difficult and ask that you do please bear with the team while this takes place.

- The chat function has become more and more useful during meetings.
- We just wanted to flag to staff that if you have a regular meeting and include attendees in one meeting that you wouldn't usually, they are immediately granted access to the chat function attached to the regular meeting invite.
- So they will be able to see any future chats.
- As such, we would advise for instances where you're extending the invite to a regular meeting outside the normal group, that this is set up as a separate meeting for this particular occasion.

Bank Holiday reminder

- This year the bank holiday that would usually be held on the first Monday in May is instead being held tomorrow (Friday 8 May) to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day.
- As the Covid-19 response requires less resource, we expect the vast majority of staff to be treating this Friday as a normal Bank Holiday.
- Some staff may be required to support the ICC and will be compensated in line with HR guidelines for this work.
- The second May Bank Holiday will take place on Monday 25 May.