

A very Happy New Year from the Healthy Working Wales Team! This e-bulletin brings you the latest workplace health news, including Covid-19 guidance, access to helpful information and links to upcoming health promotion campaigns.

Our e-bulletin is available to everyone - feel free to share across your networks. To subscribe to future editions, please email [workplacehealth@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:workplacehealth@wales.nhs.uk) and include **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject box. If you no longer wish to receive this e-bulletin, please email [workplacehealth@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:workplacehealth@wales.nhs.uk) with **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject box and we will remove your address from our database.

To view previous HWW e-bulletins click [here](#).

Due to the pandemic we have paused our awards programme, but we remain active with our role to promote health and wellbeing.

### COVID-19 GUIDANCE, ADVICE & SUPPORT

Two vaccines are now being rolled out across Wales, further information can be found [here](#) but in the meantime:

#### Keep Wales safe:

- Stay at home
- Meet only the people you live with
- Maintain social distancing
- Wash your hands regularly
- Work from home if you can

All of Wales is at alert level 4. [What you need to do at alert level 4.](#)

#### Healthy Working Wales Website

A one-stop shop of information, toolkits and resources. Our pages are regularly updated and includes links to sector specific guidance, mental health in the workplace and workforce/workplace risk assessments. Visit us [here](#).

#### Welsh Government

Workplace Guidance: Information for employers and employees to keep safe in the workplace. This guide provides key information about the Coronavirus Regulations and access to information about risk assessment, working from home, social distancing, reducing transmission risk and implementing Test, Trace and Protect. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

#### Business Wales

A directory of support, guidance and FAQ's for Welsh businesses. Click [here](#) for more information.

### [RETURNING TO THE WORKPLACE FOLLOWING A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST](#)

#### Purpose:

This statement is in response to the high numbers of inappropriate requests from employers requesting a negative result before returning to the workplace for employees who have tested positive and completed their self-isolation period.

#### Statement:

If an employee tests positive for Covid-19 they are required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date they developed symptoms (or from the date of their test if they have no symptoms). The employee is able to return to the workplace on the 11<sup>th</sup> day after symptoms develop (or from the date of their test if they have no symptoms) as long as they are feeling well and they have been 48 hours fever free. While usual practice for some types of infection, for Covid-19 there are **no requirements for a negative test result before the employee returns to the workplace.**

The Welsh Government and Public Health Wales **do not advise repeat testing for 90 days after a previously positive result**, unless new Covid-19 symptoms develop. In some cases people have continued to test positive for many weeks after initially testing positive for the virus because small fragments of the virus can stay in the nose and throat for several weeks after infection. However these individuals are no longer infectious to others. **Therefore repeat testing could lead to unnecessary time off work due to a further period of self-isolation.** Not allowing a staff member back into the workplace could be detrimental to their earnings and mental wellbeing. The Government support package for those on lower incomes is only available for the legally required isolation period. This could adversely impact upon the wellbeing of not just the employee but also their families.

### **£180 MILLION FUND FOR HOSPITALITY, LEISURE AND TOURISM BUSINESSES**

The £180m Economic Resilience Fund sector-specific fund to support tourism, hospitality and leisure businesses affected by coronavirus restrictions will open for applications at 12pm on Wednesday 13 January.

- The funding, originally announced in December, is part of a wider £450m package of support which the hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors as well as their supply chain can access and will provide vital support to thousands of firms impacted by alert level three and four restrictions.
- <https://gov.wales/180-million-fund-hospitality-leisure-and-tourism-businesses-opens-week>
- The fund will be open for two weeks or until fully committed.
- Eligibility checker: <https://fundchecker.businesswales.gov.wales/sectorspecificgrant>

We are committed to doing all we can to protect businesses during this very challenging time. Our package of support is the most generous in the UK and more than £1.6bn of Welsh Government financial assistance has reached businesses since March.

We also announced £24m funding to specifically support charities and the third sector across Wales through the Covid-19 crisis last year.

We will continue to develop our package of support aligned to any necessary restrictions beyond February.

### **KEY DATES**

4 February 2021

[World Cancer Day](#) - Global uniting initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Working together to reimagine a world where millions of preventable cancer deaths are saved.



[Time to Talk Day](#) – The day to get the nation talking about mental health. This year’s event might look a little different, but at times like this open conversations about mental health are more important than ever.

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

19 March 2021

[World Sleep Day](#) – The aim is to raise awareness about the importance of getting a good night’s sleep and there is a lot of evidence about how sleep is good for you.

