**MESSAGE FROM CARDIFF & VALE PCIC CLINICAL BOARD DIRECTOR**

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for your patience and support whilst we have been working through as much information as has been made available regarding Covid -19. I appreciate this has been frustrating and unnerving and will continue to be so for some time to come.

The last few days of uncertainty in particular, have presented a massive challenge to practices as well as the Primary Care team as we have all have been working relentlessly to prepare a response to the pandemic. This has included working with our independent contractor teams, Public Health and Infectious Disease colleagues, Local Authority and UHB teams as well as Welsh Government. I should like to thank you for this and your continued commitment.

In the last few days, I believe all practices have been revising and implementing business continuity plans. You have provided information to us on request, in order that we can support as much as possible in the weeks ahead. Clusters with PCIC teams have begun to work on how to support one another to develop cluster wide business continuity plans and this work will continue into the next week or so in readiness and in order to keep expert primary health care available to those who need it most. CPET and Cluster meetings have now been given over to contingency planning. Whilst this phenomenal activity has been going on at practice and cluster level, the UHB has continued to seek clarity on what it can offer both in and out of hospital informed by frontline clinicians and experts.  Conversations with Welsh Government have been happening daily, sometimes several times a day, in order to influence a robust response to this pandemic.

I am pleased to attach a statement released at 16.45 today from the Health Minister, Vaughan Gething outlining the response to be implemented by NHS Wales to the pandemic. It provides welcome clarity to General Practice on the issue of some contractual requirements. The Primary Care team will work through the detail as is comes through and will continue to support practices to build resilience as far as it is in our power to do so. Furthermore, there will continue to be daily correspondence with the Primary Care teams across Wales over the weekend to provide further information and interpretation, feeding information into practices as well as providing a conduit up into all the UHBs  and into Welsh Government to respond to these unprecedented pressures. .

Please be assured the Health Board will continue to work with you and support you during this challenging period.

With thanks to all in the Primary Care team and General Practice colleagues,

Dr Anna Kuczynska

**Clinical Board Director**

**Primary Community and intermediate Care (PCIC) Clinical Board**

**Cardiff and Vale University Health Board**