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**Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

As you are all aware it has been a very challenging few weeks for primary care and the NHS as a whole.   The Coronavirus outbreak is unfortunately escalating and there are now reports of a potentially high number of the UK’s population contracting the virus and parts of the country are now on high alert.   
  
There are daily updates and essential information available from Public Health Wales and as an LMC we are committed to supporting and assisting practices as the situation develops.    
  
We will continue to communicate with both Cardiff and Vale and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Boards and help maintain the safety of patients and health care professionals both in and out of hours.   
  
The appropriate clinical advice and key information for guidance and current processes can be found at the following regularly updated links:

[BMA.org.uk](http://bma.org.uk/)

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wn-cov-guidance-for-primary-care/wn-cov-interim-guidance-for-primary-care>

In addition to the current problems practices are facing on a daily basis, the challenges that have been brought to our attention include the contractual access standards, reimbursement for Locums for those colleagues who self-isolate and also staff employment issues.   There are also concerns regarding adequate supply of personal protective equipment. Although the LMC continues to support practices in the usual way we cannot offer public health advice as this is the mandate of Public Health Wales.   
  
Once again, we endeavour to ensure support and advice is provided to our practices and will update as appropriate.

Date: 9 March 2020