

## FAQ for Dental Core Trainees during the current Covid-19 situation

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### 1. Courses and Funding

- Please be assured that reimbursement of any approved funding for cancelled training will be honoured for trainees who have already incurred expenses
- There will not be approval for any new courses at the current time as all non-essential training has been suspended

### 2. Recruitment

- Face to face recruitment has been cancelled. The DCT Advisory Group (DCTAG) have submitted proposals for a modified selection process to the Medical & Dental Recruitment & Selection (MDRS) team and are awaiting approval. There will be an update to all applicants for the 2020/21 DCT and Speciality Recruitment process when further details are available.
- Trainees who have applied to the national DCT recruitment process for 2020/21 should continue to monitor the national recruitment website through this link: ([https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/recruitment/dental/dental\\_core\\_training](https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/recruitment/dental/dental_core_training)). We currently recommend all applicants keep both the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> April available until further notice.
- There is a generic inbox ([dctnro@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:dctnro@hee.nhs.uk)) if you wish to direct questions to the national DCT recruitment team, although we ask you to respect that they are extremely busy at present and may not respond immediately.

### 3. Loss of clinical training time

- Whilst there is likely to be loss of core clinical training time, trainees should take the opportunity to engage in and to record any experience which offers transferable skills within the e-portfolio. It is expected that the situation will offer significant leadership and management opportunities. In addition, any non-clinical time should be used constructively for ongoing governance, audit and QI projects as these are curriculum requirements for FRCP. With agreement, working away from the clinical workplace at certain times may be appropriate to comply with advice regarding social distancing.
- Trainees should also be mindful that non-direct clinical time accumulated during this period may be compensated for as the situation resolves in order to address the significant clinical backlog that will be accumulated

### 4. Undertaking clinical procedures

- Please follow the most up to date NHS safety guidance on Aerosol Generating Procedures within the country you are working.

## 5. FRCPs

- There has been published guidance around contingency planning for the July ARCPs/RCPs for Dental Trainees, which will be updated frequently.

## 6. Exam cancellation

- All Royal College examinations are cancelled. Please refer to the Royal College websites for specific information.
- Trainees should continue to monitor the national recruitment website for regular updates and advice:  
<https://www.copdend.org/postgraduate-training/national-recruitment-for-specialty/>

## 7. Redeployment

- Consideration of redeployment of trainees is appropriate in exceptional circumstances such as this. Training has been suspended and we have moved into a period of generic healthcare.
- You continue to be an employee of your employing organisation. As such you may be requested to redeploy to meet the needs of patients.
- If the situation changes and a call is made for all healthcare workers to be mobilised to work in different acute settings, then all salaried NHS employees who are risk free, including trainees, will be expected to engage accordingly.

## 8. Pastoral Care

- Pastoral care is vital during this difficult time
- This should be through your CS, ES and TPD. It should also be available at your Trust through the Department of Postgraduate Medical Education and if this is not possible, through the HEE Professional Support & Wellbeing service (PSW) or your responsible Associate Dental Dean.

## 9. What should I do now study days have been cancelled?

- In time, if appropriate, you will be set specific and individually tailored learning requirements by your ES/TPD that will need to be met. We will also try to offer virtual alternatives via access to webinars, virtual study sessions etc.
- Please take ownership of the requirement to demonstrate that you are acquiring the necessary profession / clinical skills and knowledge as set out in the DCT curriculum.
- The following sites may be helpful and should be visited by all DCTs
  - <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/coronavirus/>
  - <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/dentistry/>
- All UK DFTs, DTFTs and DCTs, supervisors and Deanery employees have been given free, open, access to **Dentaljuice** until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Each HEE regional office will generate the memberships and you will receive an activation email from [support@dentaljuice.com](mailto:support@dentaljuice.com).

## 10. Should I be in work now study days have been cancelled?

- Yes, you should attend your now designated place of work and undertake appropriate duties as determined by your clinical line manager.

## 11. I think I should be self-isolating. What should I do?

- Please follow the advice of your employing organisation.
- If advised to self-isolate please inform your employer/ES and your TPD in writing. Please keep them updated about your wellbeing.
- In addition use the 111 online coronavirus service for specific advice: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>
- For updated information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Specific guidance for health professionals is being regularly updated at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>
- If you are self-isolating due to contact with someone symptomatic, you can continue to work remotely.
- The expectation is that in your down-time from NHS work, you should continue to maintain your portfolio, undertake self-directed learning or any specific other/additional tasks or projects in line with the DCT curriculum.
- As trainees, you will all continue to be remunerated and it is important to use this time wisely and respectfully.
- The requirement to demonstrate that you are acquiring the necessary professional / clinical skills and knowledge can continue when practicable and can be submitted for consideration as evidence at FRCP.

## 12. If I am pregnant, should I carry on treatment as normal?

- Please follow the published RCOG guidance and BDA guidance:
  - i. <https://www.rcog.org.uk/coronavirus-pregnancy>
  - ii. <https://www.bda.org/advice/Coronavirus/Pages/faqs.aspx>
- It is essential you contact your local Occupational Health and have a full risk assessment carried out, with the consideration that dental professionals have a slightly higher risk of catching airborne viruses due to certain dental procedures

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