

Dear colleagues

**The NHS is potentially facing an unprecedented demand on its services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pace and scale of this demand is going to accelerate within weeks and likely to continue for several months**.

We are aware that the NHS is going to approach recent leavers or retirees from across medicine, nursing and the allied health professions to help support the likely surge in activity associated with the pandemic. Health Education England (HEE) has a remit to support the workforce requirements and will have access to significant resources that can be utilised. HEE Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) is working with colleagues to outline how we can enable the access to resources through our role in supporting, at a national level, simulation-based education and digital learning resources.

Colleagues across the NHS have asked for an easy place for returners to access appropriate learning which will allow them to re-equip with the skills and knowledge they need for the areas of clinical practice they are willing to support and participate in. This therefore requires teaching resources and materials to be made accessible to as many people as easily as possible. Some of these aspects of practise will benefit from staff using simulation-based training to rehearse and develop a satisfactory level of competence prior to providing support in the clinical setting. Some guidance on the way in which simulation can help is attached - ‘Think Sim for your COVID-19 preparations'.

We have created a survey to gather information about existing simulation-based training in specific skills and aspects of practise that we think will be needed as part of this response. We are also seeking to collate a comprehensive picture of simulation facilities that exist across the NHS and higher education sectors and which may be approached to help host training programmes and where practical skills can be taught rapidly to returners.

At this early stage the topics being highlighted as critical range from basic hygiene, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) under different circumstances, according to role and risk of transmission, plus refresher topics such as recognising and responding to the deteriorating patient, sepsis, resuscitation skills, etc. A parallel offer of appropriate skills will need to be considered to those who have volunteered from non-registered backgrounds for support roles/looking after people isolated in the community.

A separate, but aligned, piece of work is exploring how a range of content resources might be provided for all training facilities and faculties to access.  In addition we recognise there will be a need to identify and possibly upskill clinical educators from across the NHS and higher education sectors, possibly involving colleagues working in the third sector (e.g. St John Ambulance, British Red Cross etc.) and any returners who have previously worked as faculty.

HEE e-Learning for Healthcare is currently collating relevant e-learning content from the existing catalogue for the health and care workforce into one programme.  Resources will be available here: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/coronavirus/>.

Our request is that you complete this survey or pass it on to more relevant colleagues as a matter of urgency. We have asked for contact details to enable us to follow up on any resources for sharing or offers of assistance as and when required. Please complete the survey by **5pm on Friday 20 March 2020**. This survey may reach you from multiple sources, so please complete only once and accept our apologies for the inconvenience.

Access the survey [here](https://healtheducationyh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/scoping-current-practise-and-potential-capacity-to-upscale).

Kind regards

**Professor Liz Hughes MBE                                                                       Professor Adrian Brooke                                                              Dr Neil Ralph**

**Deputy Medical Director (Undergraduate Education)                      Deputy Medical Director (Workforce Alignment)                   Head of Technology Enhanced Learning**

**Health Education England                                                                       Health Education England                                                            Health Education England**