

Covid-19: Clinical Supervision Arrangements for GP Trainees Working in Respiratory ‘Hot Hubs’

March 30th 2020

In responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, the local healthcare system may request GP trainees currently based in primary care to provide care in respiratory hot hubs where patients with suspected coronavirus infection needing a face to face assessment are seen. This guidance sets out appropriate clinical supervision arrangements for this work.

- The named clinical supervisor, or appropriate deputy, should assess the GP trainee’s readiness to undertake such work
- GP trainees who are pregnant or in at risk health groups should not be working in respiratory hot hubs
- All activities should be subject to the usual risk assessments of the host provider, including the provision of all necessary equipment, induction and training
- Training should include familiarization with the local protocols for remote consulting, assessing face to face patients at the hot hub and watching an appropriate PPE video, such as those found at https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Catalogue/Index?HierarchyId=0_45016&programmeld=45016
- The trainee must be provided with appropriate PPE, according to current PHE advice
- Individual host providers should have agreed their preferred shift pattern for such work – for example, intermittent runs of sequential days versus a day a week on a regular basis
- The hot hub should operate in suitable premises for the intended purpose
- When GP trainees are working in a hot hub, a qualified GP/emergency support practitioner should also generally be working at the same site and be available for advice and support
- GP trainees should generally have the opportunity for a debrief session with a trained clinical supervisor towards the end of their shift. This may be provided virtually on an individual or group basis
- A trained clinical supervisor could be an existing approved GP educator or a retired educator supporting the Covid-19 response
- GP trainees should not be asked to work above their contracted hours without their and their employer’s agreement
- Host providers should ensure that individual GP trainees are aware of appropriate sources of pastoral support, where needed. For example, the Professional Support and Wellbeing service provided by HEE EOE

Some suggested learning resources can be found at www.e-lfh.org.uk/coronavirus