Health Education England

BY EMAIL

To all Foundation Trainees in the East of England

East of England Office
Directorate of
Education & Quality
Victoria House
Capital Park, Fulbourn
Cambridge, CB21 5XB

19 March 2020

Dear Trainee,

We appreciate that this is a difficult time and one that you have had no past experience to prepare for. Decisions are being made quickly to respond to the growing national need and we are balancing very carefully our decisions, weighting national need and personal development.

As you are aware, we are at the point of an increase in Covid-19 cases. Our central discussions have emphasised the need to prioritise clinical and patient centred responsibilities and this naturally will have an impact on decisions around April training rotations. We appreciate the need for early clarity and as such wish to communicate the following decisions to you directly. These decisions have been made in conjunction with Directors of Medical Education, Medical Staffing, Medical Directors and Foundation School Directors.

We will not rotate F1 trainees in to psychiatry placements commencing in April 2020. You will remain based at your current employing Trust, who will be making the more detailed decisions about which post you will move into. This decision will be made by your FTPD/DME. F1 Trainees who are currently in a psychiatry placement will rotate to their acute Trust who will advise you as to your next post. The FTPD/DME will be making local decisions as to where this is best achieved.

We will not be rotating F2 trainees into their GP or Public Health placements. You will remain based at your current employing Trust, who will be making the more detailed decisions about which post you will move into. F2 trainees who are currently working in a GP or Public Health placement will return to their acute Trust for their next placement. Trusts will inform you as to the details of your next post.

At the present time, if you are an F2 and are due to rotate into psychiatry, you will do this as planned, if you are an F2 currently in psychiatry you will rotate to the acute Trust, who will advise you as to your next post. The FTPD/DME will be making local decisions as to where this is best achieved.

For those trainees currently in or due to rotate to an academic foundation post, you will be rotating to a post within your acute employing Trust. The FTPD/DME will be making local decisions as to where this is best achieved.

For those trainees currently in or due to rotate to an educational academic post, we will be expecting Trusts to ask you to be full time in your specialty. Should you have any further PGCert days, then your local university will not be running these face to face, and we would hope that your Trust would be able to allow you to complete any final 'contact' days.

For trainees rotating to palliative care, the decision regarding your rotation will be made locally by the FTPD/DME with your local hospice.

We know that these changes are unsettling and you may be disappointed that you could not undertake the next placement you had planned for. However this is a unique event within our lifetime practice, and we do all need to be responsive to our country's healthcare needs.

We hope that this provides clarity. Please be assured that we are all balancing many responsibilities, including clinical care, and are recognising that you do too. We remain totally supportive of your FTPD/DME decisions around this.

This is a very difficult time, we are really grateful for your professionalism. If you have any particular queries, please contact Covid19-psw.eoe@hee.nhs.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Bill Irish
Regional Postgraduate Dean
(GMC 3132872)

Dr Helen Johnson
Foundation School Director
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