

# Public Health Link

From the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

<b>Distribution:</b>	As Appendix 1
<b>From:</b>	Dr Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer for Wales
<b>Date:</b>	24 June 2020
<b>Reference:</b>	CEM/CMO/2020/22
<b>Category:</b>	Immediate (cascade within 6 hours)
<b>Title:</b>	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) And Heat: Risk of heat stress
<b>What is this about:</b>	The use of PPE during high temperatures
<b>Why has it been sent:</b>	For action/information

Dear colleague

Wearing PPE in warm/hot environments increases the risk of heat stress. Heat stress occurs when the body is unable to cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature. Heat stress can cause heat exhaustion and lead to heat stroke if the person is unable to cool down.

Measures to control the temperature of clinical environments and enable staff to make behavioural adaptations to stay cool and well hydrated should be made. Staff may require more frequent breaks and the frequency of PPE changes may increase, with a resulting increase in demand.

The attached alert contains further information and actions.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Atherton  
Chief Medical Officer / Medical Director NHS Wales

To: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:

All General Practitioners - please ensure this message is seen by all practice nurses and non-principals working in your practice and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'.

Community Pharmacies.

Deputising services.

HB Prescribing Advisers.

Dentists

Opticians

Independent/Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout Wales.

Cc: Health Boards and NHS Trusts:

Chief Executives  
Medical Directors  
Nurse Directors  
Directors of Public Health

Cc: Public Health Wales:

Chief Executive  
Director of Public Health Services  
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control  
Microbiologists  
Consultant Epidemiologists  
Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme

Cc: NHS Direct Wales  
British Medical Association  
Royal College of GPs  
Royal College of Physicians  
Academy of Medical Royal Colleges  
Royal College of Nursing  
Royal College of Midwives  
Royal Pharmaceutical Society  
Community Pharmacy Wales  
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Wales