

## **Statement from the Workforce Partnership Council health trade unions**

### **PPE**

- We are establishing a communications process to provide local intelligence about where PPE is failing to reach frontline workers.
- Unions have concerns about the clarity of Welsh Government's FAQs and the BMA have offered to assist with improving this. There is also a lack of detail around what the amount of PPE purchased actually means – we would like to see the figures on stock levels put in proper context and modelling on projected demand.
- There is a gap in provision for those who are not able to access PPE under current guidance but are unable to practice social distancing because of the nature of their roles. There needs to be a clear strategy for this particular group of workers.
- Unions are also concerned about PPE provision in private social care settings in particular and would welcome a clear statement on how this will be provided

### **Testing**

- Welsh Government needs to publish a clear strategy for their intentions around testing the workforce in both health and social care, including whether family members will be eligible for testing. This has arisen out of concerns about different strategies being adopted locally.
- A shift towards anti-body testing is critical.
- Better data on testing is also needed so that unions and others can effectively scrutinise.

### **Public transport**

- Some healthcare workers are experiencing difficulties travelling to work because of an understandable drop in public transport provision. As many cannot afford taxis, unions queried if some sort of voluntary transport provision may be made available to meet this need.

### **Changes to staff roles, pay and hours**

- There needs to be clear direction from Welsh Government that decisions around this need to be taken in social partnership, including in relation to decisions about fast-tracking students into the workforce. Some unions felt that health boards were reverting back to a command and control approach.
- There were particular concerns raised by allied health professional unions that their members were being treated poorly, facing significant changes with no voice in some circumstances.