

2) Critical Care

The Reasonable Worst Case modelling indicates a 30 fold increase requirement in the availability of critical care beds. Action must therefore be taken over the coming weeks to create significantly increased levels of beds, equipment and staff.

The following phasing is suggested:

- Health board plans are already in place to broadly double capacity
- By phasing down elective activity in a planned way, further capacity can be created and prepared for additional critical care beds
- Redeploy and retrain staff released from inpatients, day cases and outpatients
- Procure additional ventilations (UK wide procurement in place)
- Reassess use of community/ home ventilation and prioritise for acute critical care units where appropriate
- Convert non-invasive ventilators into invasive ventilators
- Use non-invasive ventilators for non-COVID patients
- Procure demountable High Dependency Units

3) Hospital Discharge

Ensure patients are in the most appropriate and safe settings:

- Expedite discharge of vulnerable patients from acute and community hospitals
- Relax regulation requirements across health & social care
- Commission vacant nursing and residential home capacity
- Suspend the choice protocol
- Easement of social work hospital discharge assessments

4) Primary and Community Care

- Plans in place to roll-out video consultations
- Suspend monitoring of the GP contract
- Transfer some primary care activity into community clinics (e.g. sexual health)
- Review contractual arrangements for other primary care contractors and explore options for redeployment
- Full deployment of primary care healthcare teams, working at top of professional license
- Expand 111 capacity (e.g. divert staff from health board telephone helplines; mutual aid with other public sector partners)
- Create additional third sector volunteering and befriending capacity

5) Workforce Deployment & Welfare

- Phased redeployment and retraining of staff into priority areas
- Access to mental health first aid and support across health and social care
- Relax performance management arrangements
- Cancel study leave
- Cancel events
- Suspend non-essential work programmes
- Expand broadband width and VPN licences to support home working