



To: London NHS Staff

London Regional Office  
Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London, SE1 8UG

24<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear colleagues,

As we go into the Christmas weekend, the NHS in London is under pressure as Covid-19 infection rates rise in the capital. While Covid hospitalisations in London are not yet at their April peak they are increasing sharply.

We are aware that a number of staff have deferred leave, giving up much needed family time, and are supporting colleagues in going the extra mile. Thank you.

As a region we are doing everything we can to support additional capacity, prioritise safe discharge from hospital, provide additional staff support, and ensuring that you have the right equipment and PPE. We are matching patients to services in order to decompress units which are under most pressure and we are making every effort to ensure the vaccine is delivered to those who will benefit from it the most. We are also able to make use of the additional surge critical care and acute capacity in our hospitals enabled by some of the capital schemes put in place over the summer, in anticipation of this moment.

For those staff who have the skills and capacity to do so, particularly those who do not normally work in emergency services, we are asking you to please consider undertaking additional shifts over the next three weeks as we wait for the Tier 4 restrictions to impact on infection rates. We know that this is not easy when you are tired but this is a "call to action" to NHS colleagues to come forward if they can, as so many did during the first wave of the pandemic.

Words cannot express our gratitude to you for your efforts throughout 2020. Thank you again in anticipation of your extraordinary efforts in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Sir David Sloman  
Regional Director

Jane Clegg  
Joint Chief Nurse

Dr Vin Diwakar,  
Medical Director

Martin Machray  
Joint Chief Nurse/Incident Director

NHS England and NHS Improvement

