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From: Press
Date: 06/08/20
Subject: Winter travel arrangements

REQUEST

I am looking into the arrangements that trusts will be making to support staff with travel during the winter months.

Given the potential for resurgent COVID-19 waves, ongoing localised lockdowns as well as annual winter pressures, I am looking into arrangements that trusts will be making to support their staff in getting to and from work during 1 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021.

Please can I have a response to the following question?

What plans do you have in place to support staff with travel to and from work between 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021, in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns, locally or nationwide?

RESPONSE

In case of extreme weather or other circumstances where staff need to stay on site or cannot get home and back in time for their shift and no other accommodation is available, the Trust can establish its own on-site emergency rest and feeding centre as part of the Trust's Business Continuity plans.

Arrangements have been made with a local hotel (less than 1 mile from the main hospital site) to provide vacant accommodation for NHS staff in a crisis.

The Trust shuttle bus service can be utilised to collect and drop off staff (in shifts) from key local points in the surrounding area to and from the hospitals.

The local multi agency Joint Command & Control Centre can also access help from a local 4x4 charity which is operationalised in a crisis of extreme weather across the region for all essential services.