

## FAQ 2: Dental Core Training during the Covid-19 pandemic

23rd April 2020

*This fact sheet is an update from FAQ1 (30.03.20). Please direct any questions or queries to your Training Programme Director or Local Office / Deanery in the first instance. Due to the current impact of the Covid-19 pandemic this information is subject to frequent change and further updated FAQs will be issued.*

### 1. Recruitment 2020/21

- Face to face recruitment has been cancelled. However, a modified selection process will be held for those applicants who applied for 2020/21 entry. Please note that the recruitment process will not be re-opened and we cannot accept any new applications.
- For 2020/21 the Medical & Dental Recruitment & Selection (MDRS) team have agreed a modified selection process using a Situational Judgement Test (SJT).
- This SJT, delivered by Pearson VUE, will be available for you to take between Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June. You will be able to take this test remotely eg; from home or work. All applicants will be soon be sent a new link to register for this 'remote' SJT and we expect to open bookings on 4<sup>th</sup> May, although this date is subject to confirmation.
- In addition, post preferencing will now open on Oriel from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May and will remain open for you to rank your post preferences until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.
- Applicants are advised to continue monitoring the national recruitment website ([https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/recruitment/dental/dental\\_core\\_training](https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/recruitment/dental/dental_core_training)).
- There is a generic inbox ([dctnro@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:dctnro@hee.nhs.uk)) if you wish to direct questions to the national DCT recruitment team, although we ask you to respect that they are extremely busy at present and may not respond immediately.

### 2. Loss of clinical training time

- Whilst there is likely to be loss of core clinical training time, trainees should take the opportunity to engage in and to record any experience which offers transferable skills within the e-portfolio. It is expected that the situation will offer significant leadership and management opportunities which should be recorded in the training portfolio.
- Any non-clinical time should be used constructively for maintaining CPD, ongoing governance, audit and QI projects as these are curriculum requirements. With agreement, working away from the clinical workplace at certain times may be appropriate to comply with advice regarding social distancing.
- Trainees should also be mindful that non-direct clinical time accumulated during this period may be compensated for as the situation resolves in order to address the significant clinical backlog that will have accumulated.

### **3. Undertaking clinical procedures**

- Please follow the most up to date NHS safety guidance on Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP) within the country and Trust / Hospital where you are working.

### **4. FRCPs**

It is essential to maintain contact with your Educational Supervisor (ES) and seek their support and guidance on maintaining your portfolio of evidence.

- Details of a modified FRCP process will be published as soon as possible.
- It is currently anticipated the FRCP panels will meet between 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- You must ensure all available evidence is uploaded into your training portfolio by the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- Well in advance of the FRCPs, detailed information will be sent to your ES about creating a structured report on your progress. .
- You will be notified of any changes that have to be made to this schedule.

### **5. Exam cancellation**

- All Royal College examinations are currently cancelled until the end of September 2020. Please refer to the Royal College websites for specific information: <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/coronavirus/questions-about-exams/>

### **6. Specialty training recruitment**

- DCT2 or DCT3 Trainees applying for specialty training programmes should continue to monitor the national recruitment websites for regular updates and advice on the arrangements for specialty recruitment

### **7. Pastoral Care**

- Pastoral care is vital during this difficult time
- This should be through your CS, ES and TPD. It should also be available at your Trust through the Department of Postgraduate Medical Education and if this is not possible, through the HEE Professional Support & Wellbeing service (PSW) or your responsible Associate Dental Dean.

### **8. What should I do now study days have been cancelled?**

- In time, if appropriate, you will be set specific and individually tailored learning requirements by your ES/TPD that will need to be met. We will also try to offer virtual alternatives via access to webinars, virtual study sessions etc.
- Please take ownership of the requirement to demonstrate that you are acquiring the necessary profession / clinical skills and knowledge as set out in the DCT curriculum.
- The following sites may be helpful and should be visited by all DCTs
  - <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/coronavirus/>
  - <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/dentistry/>

- All UK DFTs, DTFTs and DCTs, supervisors and Deanery employees have been given free, open, access to Dentaljuice until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Each HEE regional office will generate the memberships and you should have received an activation email from [support@dentaljuice.com](mailto:support@dentaljuice.com).
- It is a GDC registration requirement that you maintain your CPD as part of your annual cycle. Further advice is available through the GDC website: <https://www.gdc-uk.org/news-blogs/news/detail/2020/03/23/arrangements-for-dental-and-dental-care-professional-students-and-recent-graduates-to-control-the-spread-of-covid-19>

**9. Should I be in work now study days have been cancelled?**

- Yes, you should attend your now designated place of work and undertake appropriate duties as determined by your clinical line manager.

**Andrew Dickenson**  
**Postgraduate Dental Dean**