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Dear Colleagues,

In these unprecedented times, many of us are working extremely long hours in the hospital in stressful conditions. For those of us who have pets, especially dogs, it can be difficult to balance their needs for companionship, walks and care with the demands that the Covid emergency is placing on us. That's why this initiative from Dogs' Trust where frontline workers can have their dogs fostered for free for two weeks or longer is so welcome. You can sign up to this initiative at www.DogsTrust.ie/Frontline. The campaign and the Irish Times article today feature a great photo of our colleague Nurse Annie Mathews with her nine-year-old Schnauzer Lily <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/a-dog-is-not-just-for-christmas-it-s-for-a-covid-19-pandemic-1.422981>.

As you will recall from a previous update, our friends in SEAT Ireland kindly donated 11 electric scooters to the Mater for staff use during the crisis period. These were specifically for staff who had longer than a 45 minute walk commute to the hospital, or who would normally take public transport but are no longer in a position to do so. The lucky winners from the draw overseen by Brid Cosgrove our Director of Finance and witnessed by Jane Brennan are: Rosemarie Costello, Suzanne Lawless, Paula Comiskey, Grainne Johnston, Paul Duggan. If you contact Paul Burke directly he will fill you in on the collection details pburke@mater.ie. Congratulations everyone and scoot safely!

Finally, in yesterday's daily update I mentioned the new acute floor with a 26 bed ward which has been approved and funded by the HSE. It will help us add capacity and improve patient flow during the Covid Crisis. Please see the attached draft drawing of how it will look when completed.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Best wishes,

Alan Sharp
CEO



New acute floor with a 26 bed ward

our local heroes



Name

Bernie Hayden

Department

Momentum Support – Centre for Nurse Education

How has the current crisis affected your working day?

With the increase in number of nursing staff attending for courses in the Centre and the arrival of the OHU Department my role has changed somewhat, in that I now concentrate in providing a higher standard of infection control in sanitising the staff room areas and the classrooms. It take a little bit longer now to complete my classroom cleaning in that all chairs and desks are now two metres apart hence it slows up my cleaning process. It is imperative that the standard of cleanliness is high with the increase of traffic within both departments. I am conscious now that there are patients receiving treatment in the Centre hence it is very important that I am aware to keep my social distance at all times while in my cleaning role.

Who is your office hero?

All the staff in the CNE; I never feel left out and I am included in all social occasions be it the offer of a sandwich for my break or an Easter egg at this time.

What does being part of the front line mean to you?

I take great pride in my work and am proud that I can offer a service to the CNE and the houses on Eccles Street at this very difficult time.

Can you name a time when the mater community has exceeded your expectations?

In all my 37 years working in the hospital I have to admit that this pandemic has shown me what my colleagues are capable of, and within the CNE when all staff pull together giving good insight and direction to me as to their needs within the building on a daily basis.

How do you switch off after a hard day's work?

I like to relax on the couch with a good movie and a cold beer having completed a good day's work.

