

# Core brief

## Daily COVID-19 update

(8 May 2020, 5.05pm)

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### Referral to testing for NHSGGC health and social care staff with COVID-19 symptoms

As previously communicated, health and social care staff in Greater Glasgow and Clyde, including GPs and dentists, community pharmacists, care home and homecare staff who have symptoms (fever of  $\geq 37.8$  C or new persistent cough) are eligible for testing and should be referred for testing within the first 5 days of symptoms.

In the few days since the introduction of staff being able to self-refer to NHSGGC staff testing centres we have seen a noticeable reduction in the numbers of symptomatic staff/household contacts being referred for testing.

This could be for a variety of reasons however it is vital that as many staff/household contacts who are eligible for testing are referred and tested the following day to allow staff to safely return to work and enable NHSGGC to continue deliver services.

The new e-form [Staff Testing Referral Form](#) supports **both** line manager referral (when speaking to the member of staff) and staff self-referring either themselves or their symptomatic household contact. It should be agreed between the member of staff and the line manager who will complete the referral to ensure that it is submitted and that the member of staff/household contacted is tested.

NHSGGC has four testing centres across the health board area, transport support is now available for those staff that don't have a car, and we continue to see a fast turnaround time of results.

While waiting for appointments and test results, staff and household contacts should follow guidance on self-isolation available from NHS Inform - <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19#>

For further background information on COVID-19 Testing including what to do when you receive your results go to [www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19/stafftesting](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19/stafftesting)

It is important to note that the separate surveillance testing offered via the COVID Hubs or the COVID Assessment Centres is not for diagnostic purposes and therefore cannot be used to make decisions on individual patients/return to work arrangements. Therefore, any symptomatic staff or household contacts cannot use a negative result obtained through surveillance testing to end self-isolation earlier than the prescribed home isolation periods.

### **NHSGGC Ethical Advice & Support Group**

In response to national guidance, NHSGGC has set up an Ethical Advice and Support Group.

Its role is to provide support for healthcare workers, clinicians and teams dealing with complex or difficult situations while seeking to maintain the highest quality of healthcare for everyone affected by the COVID-19 emergency response.

Made up of lay representatives and members from multi-disciplinary clinical, public health and social care backgrounds, the Group will offer additional ethical advice and support on a case by case basis.

Clinical staff and managers should liaise to resolve any dilemmas locally. Those who wish to make use of the advisory support should email [EAandSG@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:EAandSG@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) to request a form or download from [StaffNet](#). Support is available to help you outline and submit your request if you are experiencing difficulties as a result of clinical demands.

### **Volunteers**

We have received an overwhelming response from people wanting to volunteer during COVID-19 and are grateful to each and every one of them.

Volunteers play a major role in NHSGGC and their help at this time is invaluable.

More than 1000 people have offered their support to NHSGGC and in just one week alone, volunteers contributed almost 600 hours of help across our services.

Our army of helpful volunteers are assisting our services in a variety of roles including: setting up and manning hand sanitising stations, wiping down touch points, facilities support (help desk, bed runners, domestic service), cleaning (toilets, general areas, wheel chairs), R&R Hub (serving drinks, cleaning), sorting public donations and delivering across sites and meet and greet for face fit areas/way finding to name just a few.

These may seem like small things but they make a huge difference to our patients and without this band of tireless volunteers we would be lost. We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt thank you each and every one of you, you are heroes to us all.

### **Mindful communication during COVID-19**

NHSGGC frontline staff are developing good practice materials to support colleagues at this difficult time. They have produced a 'mindful communication during COVID-19' poster with tips to help you continue to deliver good patient centred care

Staff worked with colleagues in NHS Leicestershire who produced the content, and the illustrations were produced by NHSGGC.

[Click here to view the poster.](#)

## The Hospital Times

Patients in our Older People's wards are receiving their very own daily newspaper.

'The Hospital Times' contains a mixture of lighthearted stories, photographs, quizzes and puzzles. The aim is to provide an entertaining way to stimulate conversation and help with awareness, memory and concentration.

Produced by the GRI Volunteer Service and Older People's Occupational Therapy Team, the publication was originally distributed in the GRI. However, due to its popularity, it is now available across NHSGGC sites.

For information on how to access The Hospital Times, contact [Louise.colquhoun@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Louise.colquhoun@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)  
Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at:  
[www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19). If you have any questions about the current situation please check the [FAQs](#)  
first. If you have any further questions, please email: [staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).

**Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check**