

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(13 August 2020, 11.20am)

The investigations into clusters of COVID-19 in Inverclyde and Baillieston serve as an important reminder that the virus remains in circulation within our communities.

Our Test and Protect Service is key to our efforts to control local outbreaks. In both of these recent community clusters, our Public Health leads and contact tracers have worked swiftly to identify contacts and provide advice on self-isolating in order to break the chain of transmission.

The Test and Protect team have been drawn primarily from staff realigned from other services. They are now highly experienced and are doing an excellent job, working from their base at Eastbank and via remote working. I want to thank both the managers who have supported their realignment into Test and Protect and the staff involved for their commitment and dedication to this important service.

As lockdown restrictions continue to ease we expect that the demands on this team will only increase. The Strategic Executive Group has therefore given its commitment to the Test and Protect Service as a priority for the organisation. As such, we are looking for those who are part of the team to continue in this role, for those who were previously trained at the start of Test and Protect to come back into the contact tracing team and for more staff to join the team.

The Test and Protect Service are already in touch with managers and staff to confirm these ongoing requirements and I want to thank everyone involved for your support at this time.

Of course, the clusters also act as a reminder of how important it is for us all to continue to take steps to protect ourselves and others from getting the virus.

Regular and effective hand hygiene is the single-most important thing you can do to protect yourself and others from infection.

I would also remind everyone that it is important to observe social distancing whilst at work. I understand that it can be difficult to maintain this at all times but it is important for us all to respect each other's personal space and to keep two metres apart wherever possible.

We are also asking all staff within our adult hospitals to wear a mask at all times, including public areas, unless they are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, are taking a meal break (when they must observe physical distancing) or are in an office or other non-public environment.

It is important that everyone follows these guidelines to keep one another safe and help to minimise the spread of infection and I thank you all for your continued adherence to them.

Thank you.