

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(16 September 2022, 10.40am)**

We remain in a period of national mourning following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and as such I will continue to limit my weekly message to essential operational information only. I appreciate that this is an upsetting time for many of us and I hope that for those of you who wish to share your thoughts and memories, have been able to do so using the many books of condolence that have been made available across our sites.

As staff will now be aware, Monday 19 September has been designated as a public holiday to mark the state funeral of Her Majesty The Queen. As such, there are some changes to services, which have been communicated through the Core Brief and on our [website](#). I realise that the operational activities that will be carried on this public holiday are greater than would usually be in place on a public holiday. However, unlike scheduled public and bank holidays where elective appointments would not usually be undertaken, we do have many outpatient appointments and elective surgeries planned and it would impact on a significant number of patients were they to be cancelled. I appreciate that there will be members of staff who are scheduled to work on Monday, who may face difficulties due to the closures of schools and nurseries or the reduced level of public transport, so if you are in that position, please speak with your line manager, who will do what they can to support you. I would also like to thank all staff who are scheduled to work on Monday for doing so. It is very much appreciated by me, and I am sure, your patients and colleagues.

I would like to advise staff that we have now received guidance from the Scottish Government that due to the current prevalence of COVID-19 across Scotland and the high level of immunity in the population due to vaccination, routine asymptomatic testing for the virus as part of overall infection and prevention control measures for patients, service users and staff can be paused as of 30 September.

These changes are being made to help our teams to continue to provide patient centred care, support our patients to return home following their treatment as well as help to relieve the some of the pressures on our hospitals and healthcare services. Staff will be provided with further information and guidance in the coming days through the usual communication channels. Thank you.

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