

Core brief

Daily update

(19 November 2021, 5.15pm)

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Public Holidays 2022/23

The NHSGGC public holidays for 2022/23 have now been agreed by the Area Partnership Forum and are listed below:

<u>2022</u>	GREATER GLASGOW & CLYDE	INVERCLYDE	RENFREWSHIRE
Good Friday	15 April	15 April	15 April
Easter Monday	18 April	18 April	18 April
May Day Monday	2 May	2 May	2 May
Autumn Monday	26 September	5 September	26 September
Christmas Day	26 December	26 December	26 December
Boxing Day	27 December	27 December	27 December

2023

New Year	2 January	2 January	2 January
New Year	3 January	3 January	3 January

Please note: Public Holiday on 3 June 2022 is currently being discussed and we are awaiting direction from Scottish Government.

National Services Scotland – Global Citizenship Conference, 24 November, 9.30am-1.30pm

In his capacity as Chair of NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Programme, our Chairman, Professor John Brown CBE is hosting the NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Conference taking place virtually on 24 November which will focus on planetary health through global citizenship. This is an excellent opportunity for us all to reflect on climate change and quality improvement for health partnerships, and how together these can lead to action on inequalities.

The event will be of interest to those working, or training to work, in health and social care as well as the wider global health community in Scotland, and those with an interest in the NHSScotland Global Citizenship Programme.

You will also have the chance to hear two keynote speakers:

- Professor Felix Dapare Dakora, President of the African Academy of Sciences: 'How the climate crisis is impacting the African continent with regards to health outcomes'
- Pedro Delgado, Vice President, Institute for Healthcare Improvement: 'Closing the Quality Chasm: The global use of improvement methods'.

For more information and to register, visit the [event website](#). Four Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points are available from attendance at the conference.

Message from Health and Safety – Ventilation and air conditioning during COVID-19

Good ventilation can help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Where no mechanical ventilation is provided, natural ventilation can be gained through opening windows, doors or vents, however, please remember that fire doors should never be propped open.

Work areas without mechanical ventilation should be aired as often as possible. Remember:

- Identify poorly ventilated areas within your department (look for areas where there is no mechanical ventilation or no natural ventilation, such as opening windows and vents etc)
- Check that any mechanical ventilation is working correctly and liaise with Estates and Facilities as required
- Identify areas that feel “stuffy” or have a strong odour
- Certain Units/Wards may require specialist input regarding specific information/guidance on required “air changes” within an area. Please liaise with your local Estates team for more information
- Check that ventilation grilles are clean and free from dust and debris.

If you have any concerns regarding the functioning of ventilation or air conditioning within your work area, please forward your concern to: Corporate.Compliance@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

The use of fans within clinical areas should continue to follow the guidance previously issued by Health Protection Scotland.

Your local Health and Safety Practitioner is also available to talk through any issues regarding ventilation within the workplace where required.

Person Centred Virtual Visiting iPads – new pet therapy app

Occupational Therapy staff at Dykebar Hospital in Paisley are using a new Digital Pet Therapy app in North and East wards to help reduce stress and distress symptoms often associated with dementia.



Occupational Therapist Donna Southworth has been using the digital pet therapy app to benefit people who have a diagnosis of dementia:

“The aim of the app is to provide people with the benefit of the warmth, love and companionship that having a dog brings to people - maybe to fulfil a role of a pet owner that they are no longer able to carry out due to ill health. It can be used in a variety of settings and dependent on clinical area then may benefit differently.

In our area, we use the app to reduce stress and distress symptoms of dementia. It may help to reduce any anxiety or depression by interacting with a digital pet. It may prevent feelings of isolation and support

a sense of achievement in looking after a pet digitally. Seeing animals and pets can bring joy and happiness to people and help their mood.

Use of the App is currently under evaluation using the Arts Observation Scale, however early results are showing a positive outcome. Some of the benefits observed through these interventions include:

- an improvement in mood
- reduction in stress/distress symptoms
- reduction in agitation levels
- increased communication and engagement of the person with dementia.

Feedback from patients in the wards has been positive so far, for example one patient said: "This is great, I love this". Staff have fed back that one lady was initially scared to touch the screen of the iPad, however after a few minutes happily interacted with the app with support of OT staff."

The Murphy Cares App is now available for staff to use across NHSGGC on the Person Centred Virtual Visiting iPads. It can be found on the homescreen of the iPads, with the logo pictured opposite:

As a reminder, the iPads should be used to support patients to maintain contact with the people who matter to them in circumstances where they are not able to visit in person. Further information about the iPads, including user guides and details of communication support and other apps, is available on the [NHSGGC website](#).

Staff Safety Awareness

Given recent increase to the UK-wide [terror threat level](#), all staff are reminded of the importance of having and wearing their photo ID badges at all times. Wearing your official ID badge is essential. If you do not have one then you must take urgent action to get one. [Click here to fill in the form](#) and get it authorised by your line manager and processed. Many NHSGGC staff also wear the yellow "Hello my name is" badge... this is not a security ID badge and you are also required to wear the official photo ID identity card.

It is the responsibility of us all to take security seriously. If you have concerns about security risks or how to improve security, please contact your local Sector Head of Facilities.

Are you interested in becoming an ethics committee member?

If you are passionate about health care research, have the ability to analyse complex issues, take an objective stance and voice your opinion then volunteering to become a member of an NHS Research Ethics Committee (REC) could be the perfect opportunity for you.

As a REC member you will gain:

- increased knowledge in research methodology and statistics;
- a better understanding of research ethics and relevant legislation
- committee skills;
- access to Health Research Authority and other member training events.

More information is available on the [website](#) or email ailen.murphy@ggc.scot.nhs.uk for further information and an application form.

Lateral Flow Tests - Available to all staff working on site

Speak to your line manager about where to collect your test kit, then:

		
Register your kit	Test twice per week	Record your results

Keep your colleagues and patients safe from COVID-19

Help stop the spread!

Visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/lfd-stafftesting

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: 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: HR.Support@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

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

**It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.
A full archive of printable PDFs are available on [StaffNet](#)**