

Core brief

Daily update

(8 December 2021, 5.40pm)

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Message from Anne MacPherson and Linda de Caestecker

Think before you clink!

While COVID vaccines are highly effective at reducing the risk of serious illness from COVID-19, they can't eliminate it. Fully vaccinated people can still be infected and can still pass it on to others, including other vaccinated people.

So, Anne MacPherson, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development and Linda de Caestecker, Director of Public Health, are asking you to think before you clink – if you are planning a festive get together with your team, please consider the potential risks beforehand. Getting together socially has always been a key part of the festive season, but given the rise of the Omicron variant in our local communities, you may wish to speak to your colleagues and friends about the possibility of postponing your party and arranging to have it in 2022. If you decide to go ahead this year, be as safe as you can be in your party planning and consider the following points:



- Everyone should take a Lateral Flow Test before the event and not attend if it shows as positive
- No-one should attend if they have any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms
- Outdoor activities have less risk of transmission than indoor activities
- Fewer people in a room makes physical distance easier to maintain
- Physical distance between people reduces risk of droplet transmission
- Type IIR face masks reduces risk of droplet transmission
- Ventilation and air flow reduces the risk of airborne transmission
- Seated events may have lesser risk of transmission than 'free-mixing' events
- Better still, go virtual for the safest option there is!

As we move ever closer to the end of the year, we also encourage those who manage a team, to please be prepared with your staffing contingency plans.

We all want to have a wonderful festive period, spent with our families and friends, so it is really important that we consider taking steps now to limit the spread, reduce the risk and protect our loved ones this Christmas. Thank you all for your continued support.

Linda de Caestecker, Director of Public Health
Anne MacPherson, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development

Staff COVID-19 testing

All staff are reminded that they can be seen quickly for a COVID-19 PCR test through our own testing centre at West Glasgow ACH.

Both symptomatic health and social care **staff** (including care home staff, GPs, dentists and community pharmacists) and symptomatic **household** contacts can now arrange to have a test using [the e-referral form](#). Anyone who is **asymptomatic** should **not** apply for a test unless you have had a positive lateral flow test.

Referral will be by appointment, which are available seven days a week.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Community Perinatal Mental Health Service

The Community Perinatal Mental Health Team have updated their referral form. The new referral form is available on the [website](#), along with a referral guide.

An audit, completed by maternity services, identified that almost half of referrals into the Community Perinatal Mental Health Team are inappropriate for varying reasons. The updated referral form should provide a clearer indication of who should be referred.

The team will complete a further audit within a six month period to assess if the referral process has improved.

Marking one year of COVID-19 vaccinations

It's been one year since the first vaccination jags were administered in Scotland and during that time, over 2.1 million doses of vaccine have been delivered across NHS GGC by a huge team who have been working tirelessly, supporting our staff and members of the public to roll up their sleeves in our collective fight against the virus.

We caught up with Nurse Paula McMahon, who was the first person to be vaccinated in Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and who went on to be a vaccinator herself. She said: "To see so many people come forward to be vaccinated is amazing. I am so proud to have been able to play my part."

She also urged members of the public who are yet to come forward for their vaccination to do so; "It's really important that we can all do our bit to stop our friends and loved ones from becoming seriously ill with COVID, so please come and pay us a visit, if you haven't already. We are here to help and support you and we promise to make it as painless as possible."

Also, playing a hugely significant role in the delivery of the programme over the past year was our pharmacy team. Gail Caldwell, Director of Pharmacy, chose to mark the anniversary by thanking all pharmacy teams involved in the delivery of the vaccine. She said: "Our team has played a huge role in the logistics of the vaccination programme, from handling and transporting vaccines at ultra-low temperatures to venues across Greater Glasgow and Clyde to making sure that every vaccinator was fully equipped to administer vaccinations. I am so proud of the teams and all they have achieved over the past year."

Speaking about the wider programme, Dr Linda de Caestecker, our Director of Public Health, noted the role of NHS GGC staff in this extensive vaccination programme: "The COVID-19 vaccination programme

has been one of the largest and fastest deployments ever undertaken and our staff, along with our local authority partners, have responded amazingly well over the course of the past 12 months.”

Thank you to all staff who have played a role in delivering the programme over the past year as well as those who have come forward to be vaccinated!

Shared decision making - Yes, I think I understand... but could you explain a bit more about it?

Last year NICE issued new guidelines on Shared Decision Making. But what do we really mean by that phrase?

In every consultation, there are two experts in the room; the clinician and the patient. Shared decision making is a process which embraces and builds on this and allows the scales of a consultation to be more evenly balanced between the participants.

It involves sharing of evidence-based information about the options, benefits and risks and working together to agree on the most appropriate tests, treatments, management, or support packages. It's relevant in any healthcare situation in which there may be different choices. Choosing to do nothing is one of them.

Ahead of a planned series of on-line communication skills webinars to help us learn techniques for improving our approach to this, NHSGGC's Realistic Medicine Lead, Alastair Ireland and NES' Realistic Medicine Lead, Claire Macaulay explain the concept, give advice on how to structure the conversation and answer some of the questions that you may have.

Click [here](#) to read more and click [here](#) for a link to the communication training.



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
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Keep your colleagues and patients safe from COVID-19

Help stop the spread!

Visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/lfid-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](#)**