

Core brief

Daily update
(9 November 2021, 5.00pm)

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Climate Change and NHS Scotland – message from Caroline Lamb, Chief Executive NHS Scotland and Director General Health and Social Care

We have heard a great deal about climate change over the past few days and how we all need to reassess our priorities if we want live as part of a thriving planet. With COP26 almost finished in Glasgow, it is opportune for us to reflect on how we can leave a legacy of a sustainable health service for future generations.

After all, keeping our communities healthy is why the NHS exists and to do this we need a world where we protect our environment and reflect on how we use natural resources.

Two years ago NHS Scotland became the first National Health Service in the UK to commit to becoming a net-zero organisation. At the time all the Chief Executives of NHS Scotland's Boards pledged to take action. Their commitment remains central to NHS Scotland's thinking on sustainability and will now be repeated with greater context and more depth when we release the first draft of our Climate Emergency and Sustainability 2022 Strategy in coming days.

This week, on November 10, NHS National Services Scotland and Public Health Scotland will be hosting the virtual NHS Scotland Sustainability Conference 2021 'Delivering a Green, Just, Resilient Recovery' which is a unique opportunity to discuss the strategy, look at case studies and hear from experts on the issues we are striving to understand. To register go to <https://nhssustainabilityaction.co.uk/conference-2021/>

We all need to pause and consider how climate change might impact on the areas that we work in and what we can do to support a reduction in carbon emissions. I'd encourage you to read [the Lancet Report's recent annual report on health and climate change](#) which outlines a code red for health.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Lateral Flow Testing

Thank you for continuing to take your Lateral Flow Tests, over 500,000 tests have been undertaken since we started last year which has played a key part in helping to keep you, your colleagues and our patients safe.

NHS Scotland is moving to a new brand of LFD kit (Orient Gene) and in NHSGGC will start moving to this product from the end of November 2021.

Orders for LFD kits placed through PECOS will then be met by the new brand of kit and the arrangements for this will be communicated soon. In the meantime you should continue to use all existing stock of the current Innova brand of kit. Just speak to your line manager if you need a LFD kit/replacement kit, please test regularly and report all of your results on the [NSS Online Portal](#) (please use this route and not the kits/reporting portal for the general public).

Come and join the Staff Bank Service

We are welcoming internal applications for both nursing and non-nursing roles with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Nursing and Midwifery Bank. With a wide variety of flexible shifts across both acute and community services we would be delighted to hear from you. More information and our online application is available through our internal careers site at <https://apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk/internal/>.

Revision to visiting arrangements at the Royal Alexandra Hospital

Following a review by the local Incident Management Team at the RAH, and further review by a group of senior medical, nursing and infection prevention and control staff, the RAH will move to one named visitor per patient on **Wednesday 10 November**.

Patients who do not have COVID-19 will be able to choose one named visitor. This named visitor should not change unless for exceptional circumstance, for example if the named visitor becomes unwell.

The named visitor should contact the ward in advance to discuss visiting arrangements. Visiting arrangements should continue to be organised as flexibly as possible to ensure the safety of patients, family and staff.

When family members arrange to visit, **voluntary Lateral Flow Testing** should be strongly recommended as a valuable way to promote safety. It is important to note that Lateral Flow Testing for visitors is **not** mandatory and wards are not able to insist that visitors undergo a test before visiting.

All visitors should be advised **not to visit** if they are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19.

The revision to hospital visiting arrangements will commence across all wards at the RAH, with the exceptions of:

- maternity and mental health wards at the RAH, which will retain a person centred approach to visiting
- the COVID Hubs will continue to be utilised to cohort and safely care for patients and will continue to be restricted to 'essential visits only'.

The arrangements within the RAH will continue to be kept under close review to ensure we optimise the safety of patients, families and staff.

Further guidance about visiting arrangements at the RAH will be made available [online](#) as soon as possible.

Scottish Health Awards winner - Macmillan Scottish Mesothelioma Network

The Scottish Mesothelioma Network Team were delighted to win the Innovation Category of the prestigious Scottish Health Awards. Julie Roberts SMN Patient and Carer Representative and Dr Phil Reid, Respiratory Physician and Mesothelioma Clinical Lead in Lothian represented the team at the socially distanced awards ceremony. The ceremony was also attended by Humza Yousaf, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and Professor Jason Leitch the National Clinical Director of the Scottish Government who presented the award to the Mesothelioma Team.

Professor Kevin Blyth Founder and Director of the Scottish Mesothelioma Network commented "I'm so proud of the team. Scottish Mesothelioma Network is a national team with clinical leads and nurses in five cities across Scotland, a weekly MDT, national QPI targets and a focus on equitable care and access to life changing trials. Built with patients for patients and funded by amazing partners Mesothelioma UK and Macmillan Cancer Support."

Julie Roberts who, lost her father and uncle to mesothelioma has campaigned for the network since a round table discussion with the Government in 2015, added: "I'm beyond speechless and am bringing this home for the amazing mesothelioma team, partners and for every dad that has paid the price of their lives."



Scotland has some of the highest incidents of mesothelioma globally due to its industrial past.

Mesothelioma is a rare cancer that most commonly occurs in the lining of the lung. It can also occur in the lining of the abdomen and the heart. The main symptoms are shortness of breath, chest pain, cough and tiredness. Being exposed to asbestos is a major contributing factor.

For more information, visit: [Home - Scottish Mesothelioma Network - scottish mesothelioma network](#) and follow @ScotMesoNet on Twitter.

Pictured above, left to right: Julie Roberts, Dr Phil Reid and Professor Jason Leitch

Act now ahead of COP26 disruption

The COP26 Climate Conference continues until 12 November. Anyone travelling in Glasgow must now plan ahead to ensure reaching their destination in time. Roads in and around the SEC remain closed and there may be unscheduled protests which block roads and may cause disruption.

Staff FAQs are available at: [NHSGGC: COP26 Climate Conference](#).

Remember to carry your staff ID with you at all times to access your own facility and any others you have to attend.

For up to date info on COP26 and impacts on the city, visit: www.getreadyglasgow.com

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](#)**