

Core brief

Daily update
(11 May 2023, 9.50am)

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Change in Guidance on Face Masks across Health and Social Care

From Tuesday 16 May 2023, new Scottish Government guidance comes into effect on the use of facemasks and face coverings within health and care settings.

Due to a number of factors including high vaccinations rates and other mitigations against COVID-19 in the health and social care sector, the recommendation that face masks are worn at all times is being removed. The PPE requirements for standard infection control and transmission based precautions remain in place as per the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual.

The advice covers all hospitals, health centres, community sectors, primary care facilities and care homes.

The key changes to the guidance are:

- staff providing direct care do not need to routinely wear a face mask at all times during their shift
- staff in non-direct care roles (e.g. catering, domestic or office staff) do not need to routinely wear a face covering unless advised to so on IPC advice
- visitors to adult care homes do not need to wear a mask or face covering including in communal areas.

Why the guidance has changed

Fluid resistance surgical masks (FRSMs) provide protection to the wearer and those around them, and therefore have a purpose within health and social care

settings. However, we are in a position now where the extended use of masks and face coverings should be for particular situations and not the default position.

Although COVID-19 continues to spread, transmission rates are lower and the virus is currently milder than at earlier stages in the pandemic resulting in a reduction in severity of illness and hospitalisation.

The impact masks and face coverings can have on health and mental wellbeing, along with communication barriers, continues to be weighed against the protection provided against the risk of harm from COVID-19.

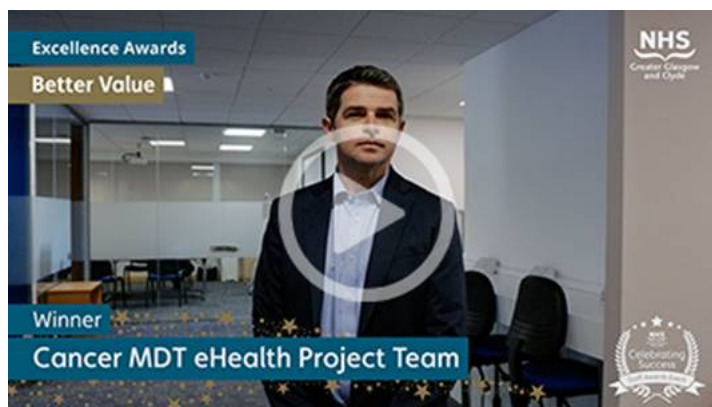
Vaccination remains the greatest protection against COVID-19.

Any staff who are concerned should speak with their line manager and if necessary a Risk Assessment can be considered and completed, with support from Health and Safety.

Showcasing our staff - Cancer MDT eHealth Project Team

As we continue to showcase our Excellence Award winners, today we feature the Better Value winner, the Cancer MDT eHealth Project Team.

The Cancer Multi-Disciplinary Team eHealth project team based at GRI have developed a digital solution to help streamline the MDT process, offering an eHealth solution that allows better cross board working and aligns MDT working to standardise referrals.



This is now being adopted as the standard for cancer MDT's across the West of Scotland with a matrix of regional eHealth departments supporting the development and support for the application as it is rolled out to each cancer type.

[Click here](#) to read more about all the award winners.

iMatter 2023 – every voice matters

Did You Know? In 2022, we had over 25,000 responses to iMatter, and this helped inform strategic plans and activity across the Board, including the recently launched Internal Communications and Employee Engagement Strategy. Find out more [here](#)

iMatter is your opportunity to provide feedback on your experience as an employee here in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde . **Cohort One** iMatter survey launches next week, **15 May**, with **Cohorts Two** and **Three** coming soon after. Please see below for details and timescales, and visit our [HR Connect](#) page for more details.

Cohort One	Cohort Two	Cohort Three
Survey opens 15 May	Survey opens 22 May	Survey opens 5 June
Chief Executives Office Acute SMT Human Resources & Organisational Development Corporate Communications and Public Engagement Public Health Specialist Children's Services Oral Health East Dunbartonshire HSCP Finance – Payroll Services only	Women & Children's South Sector Board Nurse Directorate West Dunbartonshire HSCP Diagnostics Regional Services eHealth North Sector	Estates and Facilities Glasgow City HSCP Renfrewshire HSCP Finance Clyde Sector Board Medical Directorate Board Admin Inverclyde HSCP Out of Hours East Renfrewshire HSCP Area Partnership Forum – JOC team

The survey data is administered by an independent company which means your responses are anonymous and individual feedback received is **not** shared with anyone in NHSGGC. Look out for your questionnaire link coming through and if you have any questions about responding, please contact your line manager.

Please share your views, and help to continuously build a Better workplace.

NaDIA National Diabetes Inpatient audit

NHSGGC are participating in the first audit of all inpatients with diabetes in Scotland.

Local specialist diabetes teams will be coming to all inpatient areas (including ED) to do this bedside audit.

There is particular focus on prescribing, hypoglycaemia, DKA and foot care.

The overall aim is to generate valuable information to drive improvements in care.

This will take place over six weeks from 9 May. (Confirmed dates - GRI and RAH 15-19 May, QEUH 12-16 June, IRH TBC).

Rescue Extreme Medics - Monday 15 May

NHSGGC will feature in the second series of Channel 4's, Rescue Extreme Medics, which starts on Monday 15 May at 9pm.

The programme focuses on the work of the Scottish Trauma Network and will feature a number of our colleagues from the QEUH and tell the stories of some of our most seriously injured patients.

Don't forget to put a reminder in your diary to tune in and watch the tremendous work of colleagues.

[Click here to watch the trailer.](#)

The graphic is a vertical banner with a dark blue top section and a light pink bottom section. The top section contains the text 'If something isn't right, let's talk about... Whistleblowing' in white. To the right of this text is a circular logo with a microphone and the text 'Speak Up! We're Listening'. The bottom section has a pink header 'Whistleblowing' and contains two columns of text. The left column explains that whistleblowing is a way to formally raise concerns about public interest issues like patient safety or malpractice, and provides a link for more information. The right column explains the process of visiting National Whistleblowing Standards | INWO (spsso.org.uk) and provides the email address ggc.whistleblowing@ggc.scot.nhs.uk for formal concerns. A small speech bubble icon is located at the bottom right of the pink section.

If something isn't right, let's talk about...
Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing

This is a way you can formally raise concerns about an issue that is in the public interest, such as patient safety or suspected malpractice.
You can find out more information about the whistleblowing

process by visiting National Whistleblowing Standards | INWO (spsso.org.uk).
To submit a formal whistleblowing concern, please email ggc.whistleblowing@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](#)