

Core brief

Daily update
(20 May 2022, 3.55pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Changes to COVID-related restrictions at our sites

In recent weeks, the national picture, including Scottish Government guidance for how we live with COVID-19 has changed. This, coupled with the continued downward trend in hospitalisations, has enabled NHSGGC to review and enact changes to the way in which we operate. While not in a position to completely remove all COVID-related restrictions from our health and social care settings as yet, we will, in the coming weeks, start to take further steps to return to pre-pandemic ways of working.

Staff are asked to familiarise yourself with the following updates. Please note that all operational changes will be enacted from 08:00 on Monday 23 May 2022.

Hospital Visiting

Following a thorough review, all sites will adopt person-centred visiting for all patients, with a maximum of two interchangeable visitors at any one time. This will also mean the removal of administrative booking systems for patient visiting, which have been in place due to COVID restrictions.

High risk patients or patient cohorts (i.e. extremely immunocompromised) will continue to be individually assessed as per routine practice. In addition, wards with a current, active COVID-outbreak, will continue to be required to temporarily restrict visiting to essential visits only, for the duration of the active outbreak. More information can be found on the [NHSGGC website](#).

Physical / Social Distancing

NHSGGC will, subject to local departmental risk assessments being reviewed and updated, remove the requirement for physical / social distancing for all staff at all sites. This includes when sharing vehicles and during break times.

Staff are asked to be considerate of colleagues who may prefer to remain at distance. For staff members who do wish to continue to distance, support and guidance should be sought from your manager.

Likewise, it is recognised that not all buildings or services will be able to make the same adjustments and this needs to be communicated through appropriate signage, especially if distancing remains a requirement in any department or clinical service (i.e. residential / care homes). Where this is the case, staff must follow the guidelines within that area. Similarly, other Health & Social Care staff, including contractors, are required to follow our local guidance when within our premises. If you are unsure of the guidelines in your work area, please seek advice from your manager.

The NHSGGC Physical Distancing in the Workplace guidance documents, including the signage catalogue are currently being reviewed. A further communication will be issued to advise when updates are available.

Face Coverings

The requirement to wear a facemask or face covering when entering or moving around **public** or **clinical** areas of our buildings remains and we will also continue to strongly recommend that when the public visit any of our sites, they wear a face mask unless they are exempt.

Staff will continue to be required to wear an FRSM when working in or moving around all clinical departments and when transporting patients.

Face coverings should also be worn by all staff, unless exempt, when working in or passing through a public area of one of our buildings/healthcare settings.

For staff working in non-clinical areas, a face covering is no longer required at your place of work. Should staff members still wish to wear a face covering when in a non-clinical area, you may do so.

Blended Working

Throughout the pandemic NHSGGC has supported the principle of giving staff the opportunity to work more flexibly wherever practicable. Given the positive feedback from staff concerning flexible working, our new Blended Working Guide to support this in the longer term has been launched.

The Guide sets out the principles concerning different and flexible working arrangements; how roles can be considered for blended working; specific roles and responsibilities for staff working flexibly; health, safety, wellbeing and staff engagement aspects as well as specific tools to support self-assessment and review. This Guide is intended to sit alongside and support the implementation of the new National Flexible Work Location Policy which is currently being developed.

The introduction of this Guide will help shape and reflect new ways of working within NHSGGC, with an iterative and gradual implementation approach being adopted to ensure all staff are supported appropriately. As such, we will review arrangements and seek staff feedback to capture your experiences and consider where arrangements can be enhanced or developed further. It is important that collectively, we can achieve the correct balance in terms of working location, and flexibility for staff, while also ensuring team and individual engagement combined with support for your health and wellbeing. Click on the following links to access [the Guide](#), along with the [self-assessment form](#).

We would like to thank staff for their ongoing support. We remain committed to communicating any further updates in a timely way, as soon as we are able.

Lateral Flow Tests - available to staff who work with patients and service users in face-to-face settings

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.scot/staff-recruitment/lft-staff

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: www.nhsggc.scot. 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](#).

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