

Core brief

Daily update
(24 February 2021, 6.10pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

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Mental Health Check In

We would like to say a huge thank you to all staff who have completed the [Mental Health Check In](#).

The mental health and wellbeing of all staff is very important to us and we want to make sure all staff have access to the correct levels of support.

The response so far from staff has been tremendous and we have recruited more clinicians to help respond to all staff in a timely manner. However, we apologise that there has been a short delay lately in responding to some people, with more clinicians now on board you will be contacted shortly if appropriate.

The closing date is 5pm on Sunday 28 February so you only have a few days left to give your feedback.

The check-in will ask you some questions about your mental health and psychological wellbeing, in order that we can work with you to ensure that, should you need it, you can be provided with additional support. Any information you provide is strictly confidential and will not be shared.

It is important to remember “It’s okay not to feel okay”, but many people find it helpful if someone reaches out and offers them support.

SIREN study

We are looking for all staff groups who work within Glasgow Royal Infirmary, QEUH and the Beatson to take part in the SIREN study (SARS-CoV2 Immunity & Reinfection Evaluation) – to help determine whether previous infection and/or vaccination reduces the risk of future infection.

All staff are welcome to participate irrespective of whether you have previously had COVID-19 or have been vaccinated.

Early data from Public Health England on the study shows a promising impact on infection in healthcare workers aged under 65. Data also shows one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine reduces the risk of catching infection by more than 70%.

Mental Health
Check In



SIREN
SARS-CoV2 Immunity & Reinfection Evaluation

We need to continue to monitor rates of infection in people over time to determine the duration of infection and in case any new variants arise.

Staff from across the organisation are needed – porters, domestic teams, ward clerks as well as doctors, nurses, OT, physios etc.

Non-medical colleagues, men and BME staff have been less likely to enrol so far, so we would particularly encourage these groups to get involved.

Healthcare workers taking part in the study will be required to have:

- two weekly viral swabs
- monthly blood tests for antibodies
- questionnaires via email/text
- be followed up for a year.

Participants will be notified via text of their viral swab results and antibody status. Please note antibody test is specifically to identify previous natural exposure to SARS-CoV (tests for antibodies due to vaccination will not be done locally so this will not affect your results).

After initial two visits staff have the opportunity to self-swab and peer venepuncture or can attend the clinical research facility for follow up visits.

If you would like to take part in the study please email: CovidResearch@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

For QEUH and Beatson staff call 0141 232 4310

For GRI staff call 0141 201 3770

[Click here for more information on participating in the study.](#)

New asymptomatic testing

New asymptomatic test facilities will be live across Greater Glasgow and Clyde next week.

Staff who are not included in Lateral Flow testing and are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms can still be tested through these new community walk in test sites.

People with COVID-19, may not have symptoms of the virus or they can be so mild or unusual that they are not recognised as COVID-19. Without knowing it, they could be spreading the virus to their loved ones, work colleagues or the wider community.

There will be seven asymptomatic test centre sites across the region and these will be open to members of the public who live locally.

East Dunbartonshire

Auchinairn Early Learning and Community Centre, Beech Road, Auchinairn

East Renfrewshire

Cowan 7s Pavilion, Aurs Rd, Barrhead

Glasgow City

Glasgow Central Mosque, 1 Mosque Avenue, Glasgow
Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, 6 Daisy St, Glasgow

Inverclyde

Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street, Gourock

Renfrewshire

There will be a mobile test unit for residents of Gallowhill in Paisley. This will be operational for one week, starting tomorrow.

West Dunbartonshire

Clydebank East Community Centre, Fleming Avenue, Clydebank
Levenvalley Enterprise Centre, Castlehill Road, Dumbarton

Each of the centres works on a drop-in basis, with no appointment necessary. We would encourage all staff and their families living or working in the area near one of these testing sites to go along and have a rapid test (you will get a result in 30 minutes or less).

[Click here for more information.](#)

NHS staff interim pay rise

Scottish Government have announced that Agenda for Change staff will get an interim pay increase which will be backdated to 1 December 2020.

In recognition of an exceptional year of significant pressure staff will receive an interim pay increase of 1% which will be backdated to 1 December ahead of the final 2021-22 pay settlement. This payment will start to be seen in March salaries.

While pay increases are usually effective from 1 April both the 1% interim rise and the full pay settlement, once agreed, will be backdated to 1 December 2020.

[Click here to read the letter to all staff from Jeane Freeman.](#)

Uniforms

We want to thank all our staff for everything you are doing at this difficult time and ask you to remember to adhere to the uniform policy.

The current NHSGGC guidance is that staff should not travel to work in uniform but should arrange to change on arrival at work. Uniforms should be transported home in a disposable plastic bag, which should be disposed of into the household waste stream.

Uniforms should be laundered:

- separately from other household linen
- in a load not more than half the machine capacity
- at the maximum temperature the fabric can tolerate, then ironed or tumbled-dried.

We are aware that if you are a community worker this is not feasible, but you should ensure that you follow strict hygiene control and washing instructions.

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: staff.covid19@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](#)**