

# Core brief

**Daily update**  
**(26 August 2020, 5.25pm)**

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## **Childcare Provisions**

We are seeing an increase this week in parents being asked to keep children home from school due to concerns about potentially showing symptoms of COVID-19. Our Public Health team have been engaging closely with schools and head teachers to provide support and assurance to parents and young people. We appreciate it can be of concern and we are working with Education colleagues to clarify the advice.

Since schools returned in the middle of August, there has been a sharp rise in requests for COVID-19 tests, particularly from parents concerned for their children. In order to ensure we do everything we can to prevent a rise in cases, we need to remind people how the testing system works and keep testing for those who really need it.

Firstly, only people who are symptomatic need a test unless you are explicitly asked to get a test by public health as part of the management of an outbreak.

The symptoms are the onset of a persistent cough, or a temperature/fever or a loss of taste or smell. You only need one of these to be tested. This can be done by visiting the NHS Inform website – [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot).

Testing centres have been very busy recently and we thank you for your patience in accessing the service.

We would stress that while family members need to self-isolate if someone in their household develops symptoms, they do not need to be tested unless they themselves go on to develop symptoms. If you are contacted by Test and Protect to tell you that you are a close contact of somebody with COVID-19, you do not require a test but you must isolate for 14 days. A test will not change the need to self-isolate.

Also, if your child is asked to stay off school as they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case, this does not mean other members of your household need to self-isolate, unless the person self-isolating goes on to develop symptoms.

Please do not call NHS 24 or contact your GP unless you feel you need medical advice to deal with your illness. You should not call NHS 24 or your GP just to get a test. This is not the correct route to organise a test.

It's also important that parents do NOT take their children to Royal Hospital for Children for a test. We don't want potentially infected children at the hospital if they don't need to go and it can take resource away from those children who really need to be in the emergency department.

If you have to self-isolate as a result of a symptomatic household member then this will be recorded as COVID-19 Special Leave.

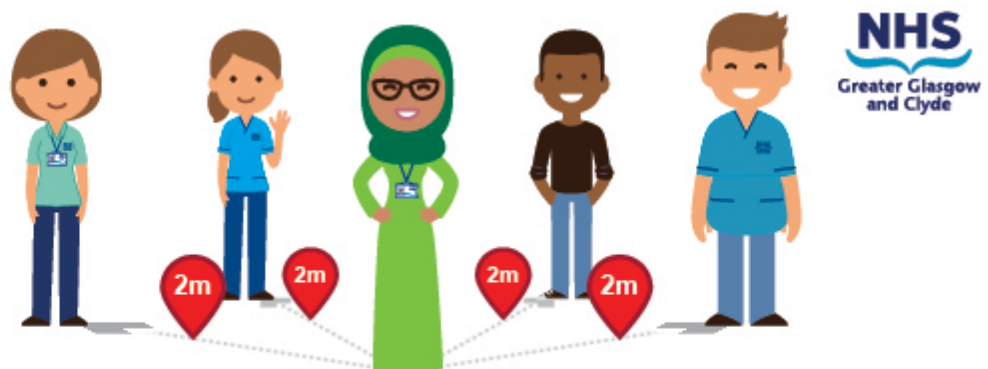
For more information please visit: [www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid/schools](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid/schools)

### Childcare Arrangements

If you require to make emergency arrangements for children who are asymptomatic then you should advise your line manager and discuss the appropriate existing NHSGGC Policy for details on parental and other leave.

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: [www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19](http://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](mailto:staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).



**It's important to maintain the social distancing rule.  
Respect personal space and keep 2 metres apart.**

**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](#)**

