

Core brief

Daily update
(29 April 2022, 5.25pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Reporting deaths to Procurator Fiscal during COVID-19 Pandemic
- COVID-19 testing and self-isolation guidance for staff
- Update - Winter Respiratory Infections IPC Addendum

Reporting deaths to Procurator Fiscal during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Health Boards in Scotland have received a letter from the Chief Medical Officer, noting updated guidance to medical practitioners for death certification and reporting deaths to the Procurator Fiscal during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The principle of the letter is intended to adopt uniform terminology of the disease and the virus and support the reduction in time to provide the Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death (MCCD/Form 11). The guidance states that the use of the terms COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 infection in the MCCD/Form 11 is acceptable, and can also be entered into the register in that way.

Staff are also reminded that the guidance relating to the remote registration of deaths and still-births in the UK Coronavirus Act 2020, which came into force at the start of the pandemic to prevent unnecessary in-person contact at registration offices, remains in place.

This guidance requires the certifying doctor to send a copy of the certificate to the specified registrar electronically, also copying in the person making the funeral arrangements. This is to ensure that the registrar receives a copy of the MCCD, without which the death cannot be registered. Following this process will help speed up the death registration process and reduce delays for families and carers.

Staff are asked to familiarise yourself with the guidance, which can be found here - [Death certification resources, leaflets and publications \(healthcareimprovementscotland.org\)](https://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org)

COVID-19 testing and self-isolation guidance for staff

NHSGGC staff are reminded that you must continue to self-test for COVID-19 using LFT kits twice weekly and report your results on the NHSScotland portal. LFT kits are available to all of our staff and if you require more, please notify your line manager who will be able to assist you.

Likewise, while we anticipate updated information from the Scottish Government concerning self-isolation requirements for health and social care staff, currently there is no change to the guidance for staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for the virus. Therefore, if you have symptoms or test positive, please not enter a work environment. If you are able to work from home during your self-isolation period, please speak with your line manager, who can provide you with advice.

Update - Winter Respiratory Infections IPC Addendum

Following a review of the changes to the above, the Acute Tactical Group (ATG) and Scientific and Technical Advice Cell (STAC) have agreed the following changes;

There is no requirement to carry out a confirmatory PCR test on patients who have no symptoms of respiratory infection (please refer to screening questionnaire) and who have had a negative Point of Care Test (POC) for example a Lumira Dx.

Day four or five PCR testing and screening on transfer should be discontinued outside high risk settings which should be agreed by sector senior leadership teams.

Any patient who has previously tested positive for Covid-19 should be exempt from being re-tested using a PCR test within a period of 90 days from their initial symptom onset, unless they develop new possible symptoms. This is because fragments of inactive virus can be persistently detected by PCR tests in respiratory tract samples for some time following infection. The exception to this is patients being discharged to a care home and staff are advised to review the duration of precautions section within the Winter Respiratory Infection IPC Guidance for detailed information.

The infographic is titled "Lateral Flow Tests - Available to all staff working on site". It contains the following text and icons:

- Header: **Lateral Flow Tests - Available to all staff working on site**
- Instruction: **Speak to your line manager about where to collect your test kit, then:**
- Three steps in a flow:
 - Register your kit** (with a kit icon)
 - Test twice per week** (with a calendar icon)
 - Record your results** (with a bar chart icon)
- Message: **Keep your colleagues and patients safe from COVID-19**
- Message: **Help stop the spread!**
- Footer: **Visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/lfd-stafftesting**

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