

Core brief

Daily COVID-19 update (31 March 2020)

We are committed to ensuring that staff have the information they need to know to respond to the current COVID-19 situation.

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19. We are continually updating these webpages with new information and ask colleagues to check this regularly. If staff have any questions about the current situation please check the [FAQs](#) first. If staff 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](#).

New SG national guidance for staff and managers

The Scottish Government has now issued a single national guidance document for NHS Scotland staff and managers on coronavirus.

The aim of this guidance is to direct staff to verified sources of advice on a range of issues and staff concerns that have been raised during this challenging and unprecedented situation.

The guidance will be regularly reviewed as the scientific and clinical advice changes.

All staff are asked to read the guidance which, importantly, offers clarity with regards to PPE and to the correct infection control procedures to be followed by staff including;

- **The contact precautions** to be used by all staff in areas with suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- **The droplet precautions** to be used if you are in close contact (within 1 metre) with patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- **The airborne precautions** to be applied if you are performing an aerosol generating procedure.

The document is hosted on the Scottish Government website and will be regularly updated. The guidance is available via this link - <https://www.staffgovernance.scot.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/guidance/>. (Please note that you should scroll down below the joint letter from the CMO and the Director of Health Workforce to read the guidance.)

We have updated our [FAQs and Risk Assessment](#) to reflect the changes in this new guidance primarily in relation to pregnant workers and clarity around other areas such as vulnerable household members.

Testing of household contacts with symptoms of COVID-19

The current guidance for staff with a household member who develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 is that you **MUST** remain at home for 14 days, even if you do not have symptoms.

From tomorrow (1 April) new testing arrangements will be introduced to enable **symptomatic household contacts** of staff working in priority areas to be tested for COVID-19. Where the results are negative, this will enable the staff member to return to work sooner than the required 14 days.



If you are a healthcare worker without symptoms but with a symptomatic household member, please inform your manager.

Given the pressure on testing capacity, priority is being given to those service areas with greatest staffing pressures. Testing slots will be allocated to referrals received from those services experiencing greater absence and/or pressure.

If your manager considers the testing of your household contact to be a priority, they will complete an online form. If your household contact is to be offered a test, **they** will be emailed and sent an appointment slot with one of our testing facilities. If the household contact is a child the appointment will go to their parent or guardian.

Please note that all testing will be done by appointment and the results will be sent to your household contact by text.

The full details of the testing arrangements are [available on our dedicated webpages](#).

Clinical guideline directory

A directory of COVID-19 clinical guidelines, approved by the acute tactical group, has now been published and is available on the [Coronavirus Information Hub on StaffNet](#).



Please remember to wash your hands

Follow the correct hand washing procedure
www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

