

# Core brief

## Daily update

(31 October 2022, 4.30pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Face mask update for staff who work with individuals in their own homes
- Updated standard infection control precautions audit tool on CAIR dashboard
- Sip Till Send – Simple, Safe, Kind
- Staff Health and Wellbeing Survey extended until Friday 4 November
- Our postal services have changed
- Upcoming postal disruption

### Face mask update for staff who work with individuals in their own home

Healthcare workers who work with individuals in their own home are now required to follow the [guidance for social care settings](#).

Due to a number of factors including high vaccination rates and other mitigations against COVID-19 in the social care sector, **the recommendation that face masks are worn at all times is being removed for this staff group**. The PPE requirements for Standard Infection Control Precautions (SIPCs) and Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs) remain as before.

- Staff providing direct care do not need to routinely wear a face mask at all times during their shift
- Staff may choose to wear a mask, and this should be supported

While receiving care and support, individuals (or their representatives where relevant) may wish a member of staff to wear a mask. If so, this should be supported by staff and be recorded in care or support plans.

### Updated Standard Infection Control Precautions Audit Tool on CAIR Dashboard -

#### 'Go live Date' 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

NHS Health Boards are required to demonstrate the application of standard infection control precautions as the basis of all healthcare delivery to prevent and control infection.

In 2020, the QEUH Oversight Board Final report recommended that NHSGGC undertake a review of its programmes of audit relating to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in line with the Healthcare Improvement Scotland framework for quality planning and improvement. The aim was to ensure consistency in RAG ratings for Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) and a stronger link to a continuous quality improvement culture. The report also recommended an organisational approach to SICPs quality improvement work to ensure partnership working between the clinical teams and the Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT). As a result of this recommendation, NHSGGC set up a short-life working group with

clinical staff to review the Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) audit tool used by the IPCT and by the Senior Charge Nurses (SCNs) within the Care Assurance Improvement Resource (CAIR).

The changes to the SICPs audit programme reflect the partnership responsibility of the local clinical teams and the IPCT. The new SICPS Audit Tool will go live on the CAIR dashboard on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and the IPCT will be carrying out awareness raising visits during the first month of implementation. All clinical areas are expected to complete the new SICPs audit as a baseline in November and the IPCT will commence their SICPs programme of audit in February 2023 to provide assurance regarding the application of the audit/strategy. The re-audit process will be dependent on the SICPs audit outcome (% compliance), a re-audit timescale will be guided by RAG score with associated actions below:

	GREEN: ≥ 90%	Well done! Share result with lead nurse* Complete improvement action plan within timescale Check for consistent failures and consider project to improve using PDSA. Re-audit in 6 months as part of SCN/department manager programme
	AMBER: 67-89%	Room for improvement! Share result with lead/chief nurse/service/general manager* Complete improvement action plan within timescale Check for consistent failures and consider project to improve using PDSA. Consider support from IPCT Re-audit in 3 months by SCN/departmental manager
	RED: <66%	Improvement strategy required! Share results with lead/chief nurse/ service/general manager/ director * Complete improvement action plan within timescale Identify SICPs that require supportive improvement and discuss with QI and IPC teams Re-audit in 1 month by SCN/departmental manager and IPCT

Please click on the following link for further details: [Updated SICPs Clinical Area Summary Document - NHSGGC](#) or contact Margaret Connolly, Assistant Chief Nurse – Governance and Regulation on [Margaret.Connolly@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Margaret.Connolly@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) or your local Lead Infection Control Nurse.

### Sip Till Send is launching at QEUH, Victoria ACH and Gartnavel General today Monday, 31 October

We are delighted to announce that Sip Till Send is now becoming a **default pathway for all adult patients** undergoing surgery under anaesthesia in Theatres at QEUH, VACH and GGH.

The patients will be allowed to sip clear water (maximum 150ml per hour, which is a standard NHS plastic glass) up until they are sent for by the theatre team.

This will apply to all patients, including **elective and emergencies**, admitted via wards, ARU, same day admissions and day surgery units.

Some patients **will be excluded from Sip Till Send**:

1. Obstetric patients (Sip Till Send does not apply to Obstetrics at present)
2. Patients, whom the surgeon (or other specialist performing the procedure) or anaesthetist will deem as not being suitable for Sip Till Send (the surgeon and anaesthetist should inform the relevant clinical area, that the patient is not Sip Till Send)

If you have any questions, feel free to email [dmitrijs.sokolovs@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:dmitrijs.sokolovs@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

## Staff Health and Wellbeing Survey extended until Friday 4 November

To participate please visit: <https://link.webpolsurveys.com/S/51D7BFC54D724D88> or click on the QR code.

There will be an opportunity to complete this survey in paper format for anyone wishing to do so. Please speak to your manager who will make this available for you. A copy of the survey is also available to print off by [clicking here](#).

Printable copies have also been sent to Facilities Managers on Acute sites and HSCP contacts for dissemination to line managers.

If you are unable to access the survey in this way please email [HIAdmin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:HIAdmin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) and a copy will be emailed to you for printing.

The survey will remain open until Friday 4 November.

**Note:** Can managers/supervisors make arrangements for paper copies to be returned by staff confidentially.

All completed surveys to be returned to: **Stephanie Leith, Health Improvement Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, West House, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, G12 OXH.**

There is also a prize draw opportunity for anyone completing the survey. Details on how to enter are in the survey.

## Our postal services have changed

From today (31 October 2022), NHSGGC will no longer send 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail from any of our mail rooms, unless the sender is on the 'pre-approved list'.

From today (31 October 2022) all mail marked 1<sup>st</sup> Class from a department which is not on the 'pre-approved list' within each mail room, will be sent out as 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. **The reasoning for this is the timescales for 2<sup>nd</sup> class mail to be received is quicker than previously achieved by the Board's last Postal Service provider.**

## Upcoming Postal Disruption

Royal Mail have confirmed that there will be strike action taking place on the following dates: **Wednesday 2 November, Thursday 3 November and Friday 4 November.**

While talks between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union (CWU) continue in an attempt to avert industrial action, NHSGGC staff are asked to send post items as early as possible in advance of the strike dates in order to minimise potential disruption.

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: [www.nhsggc.scot](http://www.nhsggc.scot). If you have any questions about the current situation please check the FAQs first. If you have any further questions, please visit the [HR Self Service Portal](#).

\*\*\*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**