

Core brief

Daily COVID-19 update (27 April 2020, 4.00pm)

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Minute's Silence – Tuesday 28 April

Tomorrow is International Workers' Memorial Day. The theme for this year is Coronavirus and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, along with other employers, will participate in a minute's silence at 11.00am in honour of health and social care colleagues who have sadly lost their lives to COVID-19. If you are able to, we would ask you to join colleagues in this act of collective remembrance.

Support for staff

In her video message last week our Chief Executive, Jane Grant, talked about the importance of looking after staff at this difficult time. We have introduced a number of services to support you including R&R Hubs, the COVID-19 Staff Support Line and the Acute Psychology Staff Support Service. The Occupational Health counselling service, our mindfulness training and the chaplaincy service also continue to provide support. Details of how to access the services can be found [here](#).

The idea for the R&R Hubs came from one of our ED colleagues who had seen them used in the military. We know that there will many other suggestions for ways that we can support staff at this time and we want to hear about them. If you have an idea then please let us know. Email us at staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk and we will look into your suggestions.

Updated guidance

As you are aware the Scottish Government has introduced a single national guidance document on coronavirus that directs staff to verified sources of advice. This informs a standard approach to occupational health, for application across NHS Scotland. You can see this here: <https://www.staffgovernance.scot.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/guidance/>. Most recent updates include further clarity on pregnant workers, childcare provisions and other areas including social distancing and uniforms. You can see the full updates at the guidance online or in our [FAQs](#).

Pregnant Workers – further clarity to advise that every pregnant worker should have a risk assessment with their manager, which may involve occupational health. Pregnant women can only continue to work in direct patient-facing roles if they are under 28 weeks' gestation and if this follows a risk assessment that recommends they can continue working, subject to modification of the working environment and deployment to suitable alternative duties. Pregnant women of any gestation will not be required to

continue working if this is not supported by the risk assessment, as per the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSW). If a risk assessment indicates that a pregnant woman under 28 weeks' gestation can continue to work in a patient facing role, and the woman chooses to do so, this will be supported.

Following a risk assessment with their employer and occupational health, pregnant women should only be supported to continue working if the risk assessment advises that it is safe for them to do so. This means that employers must remove any risks (that are greater in the workplace than to what they would be exposed to outside of the workplace), or else they should be offered suitable alternative work.

Some working environments (e.g. operating theatres, respiratory wards and intensive care/high dependency units) carry a higher risk of exposure to the virus for all healthcare staff, including pregnant women, through the greater number of aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs) performed. When caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, all healthcare workers in these settings are recommended to use appropriate PPE. Where possible, pregnant women are advised to avoid working in these areas with patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Childcare Provisions – a reminder that you should contact your local authority for access to keyworker childcare. If you are struggling with childcare provision, we encourage you to liaise with your regular childcare provider or school or direct with your local council for any further advice and support that they may be able to provide, however, if no solution can be found there is a dedicated team within Scottish Government to help (keyworkers@gov.scot).

Cyber attacks during COVID-19

We have provided some new guidance to protect yourself and NHSGGC from becoming victims of cyber attacks during COVID-19. [You can view the guidance here.](#)

Please always remember to practice good cyber hygiene and look out for suspicious emails and SMS texts, many of which are COVID-19 themed and designed to steal sensitive information such as passwords and bank details.

Further guidance on phishing can be found on Staffnet [here](#).

If you have any questions please contact the [IT Service Desk](#).

If want to report a phishing email, please forward it to spam@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

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](#)**