

# Core brief

**Daily update**  
**(9 July 2020, 4.25pm)**

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Discontinuation of symptomatic staff testing
- Social Distancing in the Workplace – Risk Assessment
- Clarity on COVID-19 tests as Taxable Benefit in Kind
- Scottish Health Awards 2020

## **Discontinuation of symptomatic staff testing**

From Tuesday 14 July we are discontinuing the use of our staff testing sites. This decision has been taken due to the falling numbers attending the sites. However, we will retain the ability to quickly resume this service if the need arises.

All health and social care staff in Greater Glasgow and Clyde who have symptoms are still eligible for testing. Any member of staff who has symptoms of COVID-19 should request a test through [NHS Inform](#). Staff will be given the choice to either attend Glasgow Airport or request a test kit be sent to you at home.

The advice remains the same for all, if you have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, don't come to work, self-isolate, request a test and your household contacts should also self-isolate.

While we no longer require our own testing sites, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Jean Stevenson and her team of bank nurses, Facilities and Estates and eHealth for the tremendous work they undertook to set up our testing sites particularly in such short timescales.

## **Social Distancing in the Workplace – Risk Assessment**

Please be advised that the [Risk Assessment Template](#) that accompanies the guidance document for managers and staff is available and should be completed by departments and services to review what controls are in place. It is important that this template is used to support a consistent approach.

To aid completion sample [Risk Assessments](#) for an acute adult inpatient ward environment, an outpatient department and office environment have been developed by the Health and Safety Department. **It is encouraged that these sample assessments are used as a guide for similar departments to assist with their assessment.**

Risk Assessments should be undertaken by competent assessors such as the Health and Safety Manual owners in conjunction with appropriate staff and representatives and due consideration should be given to potential additional future team members for example students.

An [Inventory of Risk Assessments](#) should be kept by each line manager in order to demonstrate that they have been undertaken. Risk Assessments that require further action through the Estates and Facilities team should be forwarded to the appropriate point of contact as detailed on the [contacts list](#).

Local services are also able to seek support from local health and safety representatives and the Health and Safety team to assist with implementation.

Please access the above noted documents and supporting information through the [Social Distancing in the Workplace page](#).

Staff are reminded that Infection Control Guidelines require them to wear a FRSM or face covering in communal areas of our buildings such as corridors and stairwells where they are not able to maintain physical distancing.

### **Clarity on COVID-19 tests as Taxable Benefit in Kind**

Concerns emerged after HM Revenue & Customs issued new workplace benefits guidance that stated COVID-19 testing kits or tests carried out by a third party, which have been purchased by an employer for its employees, were to be treated as a taxable benefit in kind.

This has been reviewed by UK Government and HMRC has since removed the reference to testing kits from its guidance, indicating that staff would **not** have to pay tax on them.

### **Scottish Health Awards 2020**

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Scottish Health Awards. There are 16 award categories that recognise the important contribution of staff across NHSScotland whatever their roles.

The categories include awards for: doctors, nurses, AHPs, support workers, care for mental health, innovation, healthier lifestyle, volunteers and many more.

Any member of staff or a team who works in NHSScotland can be nominated for **any** of the award categories. A number of the award categories are also open to partners and individuals from external organisations, charities or partner organisations.

The closing date for nominations is **5pm on 30 September 2020**. For more information about the awards, visit: [www.scottishhealthawards.com](http://www.scottishhealthawards.com)

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 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](#)**