

Core brief

Daily update

(14 September 2021, 5.50pm)

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Let's keep things flowing

Thank you for your hard work during what continues to be a challenging time for us all.

As we work between hospitals, offices and home we would like to remind everyone of the importance of taking Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly.

Registering the results of each test takes just a few minutes and is a hugely important part of the process as it allows us to adapt working patterns, identify areas of infection and stop the spread of COVID-19. It also helps us ease any worries or anxiety staff, our patients and the public may have.

With your help we can continue to keep each other safe while providing our important services.

For more information on how to register your LFT results, please [watch this video featuring Director of Public Health, Linda De Caestecker](#).

Thank you for your support.



Face coverings for visitors – reminder of current guidance

Staff should continue to remind visitors of the requirement to wear face coverings in all areas of NHSGGC, unless eating, drinking, are mask exempt, or a robust risk assessment has deemed otherwise.

Public messaging on social media will continue to reinforce the need for visitors to follow all safety measures.

Current guidance on face coverings is available via the [Scottish Government website](#). In summary:

- Visitors over the age of five must wear a face covering in hospital
- Where visitors decline to wear face coverings, staff should apply judgment and consider if other infection prevention and control measures (e.g. hand hygiene, ventilation and physical distancing) are sufficient depending on the patient's condition and the care pathway
- Where required, staff should provide visitors with a face mask
- The vast majority of people can wear a face covering and if they are not exempt from doing so then they are legally obliged to do so in the mandated spaces
- In high risk settings, long stay or overnight settings, visitors who are required to stay in hospital with the patient for a prolonged period of time, will be asked to wear FRSMs (or face covering if a FRSM cannot be tolerated), unless they fall under one of the exemptions specified in the regulations.

Mask exemption

Those exempt from wearing face coverings under the [Regulations](#) should not be forced to wear a face covering and no one should be abused or treated in an unacceptable way. Likewise, people who are exempt should not be denied access to places where face coverings are required.

The vast majority of people can wear a face covering. That includes most people with a lung condition such as asthma, and everyone who can wear a face covering in the mandated spaces is legally required to do so.

However, there are situations where a person is unable to, or it would be inappropriate, for them to wear a face covering.

Exemptions include, but are not limited to:

- when a visitor has a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability (within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010) (which might include hidden disabilities, for example, autism, dementia or a learning disability) which prevents them wearing a face covering. This may include children and young people with breathing difficulties and disabled children and young people who would struggle to wear a face covering
- when a visitor is unable to wear a face covering without suffering severe distress as a result
- when seated in a hospitality setting, or to eat or drink
- when communicating with someone who relies on lip reading and facial expressions to communicate. If the patient is outside the visitor's household they should ensure a careful distancing of at least one metre distance is maintained and remove the face covering only temporarily whilst communicating and replace it immediately afterwards
- babies, toddlers and all other children and young people under five years old.

There may be some situations when a person can wear a face covering and others when they can't, so they should consider whether they are able to wear a face covering in this particular visiting circumstance.

Alternatively, the visitor may be able to wear a face shield and should do as it is safer than not wearing any face covering at all.



Health and Safety Training – Protect yourself, your colleagues, patients and visitors.

We are in September, so please remember! Complete your Health and Safety Training including; Sharps, Falls and Moving and Handling.

We are actively encouraging all staff to check and ensure that they are in date for the following training throughout the month of September:

- Nine core mandatory modules (relevant to all staff)
- Sharps - GGC: 061 Management of Needlestick Injuries
- Sharps - NES: Prevention and Management of Occupational Exposure
- Falls Prevention Programme (five modules)

Note; an alert is automatically generated by LearnPro three months prior to module validity elapsing for the above noted modules. Modules are accessible at the time of the alert meaning that the majority of staff who will lapse during the remainder of 2021 will be able to access their training during September.

For further information regarding Health and Safety training modules, and how to access them please go [here](#) and to complete the training module, access your [LearnPro account](#).

Growing our Great Community - NHSGGC BME Staff Network

The BME Network was established in 2018 after various discussions with stakeholders about the lived experiences of BME staff.

The BME Network aims to:

- Provide a safe, supportive and confidential forum for sharing experiences
- Network and discuss identified issues that affect members of staff from BME groups
- Act as a platform for consultation and influence on issues impacting on the health, wellbeing and work of BME staff
- Facilitate opportunities for feedback on staff governance issues in relation to the experience of BME staff.

Staff who are part of the BME Staff Network you can now join our Facebook group by searching for **NHSGGC - BAME Staff Network** through Facebook's search function and requesting to join the group. There are a few details to fill in for our admins to verify requests are from NHSGGC employees who are part of the BME Staff Network. Please remember that this group is private and confidentiality is expected from each member.

If you would like to know more or you would like to join our forum please contact: ggc.bmestaffnetwork@nhs.scot.uk or visit our HR Connect pages here [NHSGGC: BME Staff Network](#).

Scotland's Climate Week

Anaesthetists across Greater Glasgow and Clyde are doing their bit to help reduce harmful carbon emissions. A small bottle of one of the anaesthetic gases used to help put you to sleep, desflurane (in its liquid form), contains the carbon dioxide equivalent to a whole year's eight mile commute to and from work in a car.



Now, clinicians across NHSGGC have worked to minimise the use of the gas, reducing its impact on the environment and saving money in the process. The news comes during Scotland's Climate Week and the countdown to Glasgow hosting the COP26 Climate Conference at the end of October.

Dr Geraldine Gallagher, an anaesthetist based at GRI, has been leading the effort to reduce use of the gas. She said: "We began by explaining the issues to our colleagues and getting them on board – and I'm pleased to say that it's been a great success, with far less use of the damaging gas across our hospital sites. We've done the maths and we've worked out that in just three months, the CO2 saving is equivalent to the entire department's annual commute put together."

Such has been the success of the project that in some months the department at GRI hasn't needed to order any of the damaging desflurane at all – and the work will be highlighted as part of a submission from the Scottish Environmental Anaesthesia Group at COP26 next month.

Are you ready for COP26? The meeting at the end of October will bring with it significant disruption. Plan ahead and don't be caught out. More info, including detailed info on travel, is available at www.getreadyglasgow.com and on our website at [NHSGGC: COP26 Climate Conference](#).



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: HR.Support@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](#)