

Core brief

Daily COVID-19 update (30 March 2020, 2pm)

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](#).

Guidance on PPE

Two new videos have been produced by the Infection Prevent and Control team for healthcare workers involved in the assessment and care of individuals with possible or confirmed COVID-19.

The videos show the type of personal protective equipment (PPE) required and how to put it on and take it off safely, including the correct safe disposal procedures.

To view the video on aerosol generating procedures, [click here](#).

To view the video on droplet precautions, [click here](#).

Mental Health Assessment Units

As a direct response to the extraordinary service pressures on existing resources with Emergency Departments as a result of COVID-19, two Mental Health Assessment Units (MHAU) have been established within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to provide an alternative base for patients who are experiencing a mental health crisis/distress and require to be assessed by mental health professionals.

The MHAUs will be based at the Nevis Building, Stobhill Hospital and the MacLeod Suite, Leverndale Hospital.

With effect of **Monday 30 March** these facilities will offer a face to face assessment to individuals who would have ordinarily attended the GRI, QEUH and RAH Emergency Departments. Scottish Ambulance Service will also direct patients there where appropriate.

Both will be open 24/7 and will be staffed by a Mental Health Nurse and Medical staff who will be able to offer mental health assessment and limited treatment for very minor injuries e.g. superficial cuts/ bruises.

Exclusion criteria are as follows:

- COVID-19 positive
- COVID-19 suspected (symptoms)
- Significant overdoses requiring treatment or ECG monitoring
- Significant wounds requiring multiple sutures or obvious onward specialty referral (minor cuts requiring suturing can be seen at the MHAU)
- Patient unable to undertake assessment due to being highly intoxicated through substance misuse
- Patient unable to mobilise
- Violent patients

An SOP has been produced and shared with Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and Emergency Departments.

Accelerated Recruitment Portal for Emergency Registrants

Under the UK Coronavirus Act 2020, Emergency Registers have opened to former registrants to accelerate the workforce capacity across NHS Scotland.

To enable speedy deployment and employment across Health and Social Care, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) have been commissioned to build a national 'Health and Social Care COVID-19 Accelerated Recruitment Portal'. This will facilitate emergency registrants across professional groups to provide their details.

The portal will support applications from returners and students to priority areas in health and social care across acute, primary, community and social care settings.

To date NHSGGC have been processing this locally, however going forward all candidates should register their interest through www.careers.nhs.scot. If you know of anyone who may be interested please advise of this new portal.

If you or someone you know has already passed their details to our recruitment team, we will continue to process this and no need to reapply.

We will continue local campaigns for bank workers in estates and facilities and healthcare support workers.

British Sign Language interpreters

Some patients will be comfortable in using devices for this, however, this is an area which may require face to face service. It should be noted that this does not constitute a visitor to a patient and therefore if required it is essential that interpreters be allowed access. Social distancing and strict hygiene controls should be followed. Consideration should also be given to whether PPE is required and this should be provided locally.

Immigration Provisions

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) published guidance on GOV.UK on immigration provisions for individuals affected by travel restrictions associated with coronavirus (COVID-19). These changes are now in effect and full details are available at gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents

It includes details of visa extensions, switching to long term UK visa, sponsor enquiries and general advice. Some key advice:

- No individual who is in the UK legally, but whose visa is due to, or has already expired, and who cannot leave because of travel restrictions related to COVID-19, will be regarded as an overstayer, or suffer any detriment in the future.
- A visa will be extended to 31 May 2020 if an individual cannot leave the UK because of travel restrictions or self-isolation related to coronavirus (COVID-19). [Individuals must contact the Coronavirus Immigration Team email](#) to advise of their situation.
- The Coronavirus Immigration Team will update relevant details on UKVI databases. Individuals will be advised that UKVI have noted their details; they will not be subject to enforcement action; and this period will not be held against them in future applications.
- This requirement to contact Coronavirus Immigration Team applies to individuals of any nationality whose leave expires between 24 January 2020 and 30 May 2020.

UKVI has set up a dedicated email account for customers with immigration queries related to coronavirus, including questions about urgent, compelling, compassionate cases. Customers can contact: CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk



Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check