

# Core brief

## Daily COVID-19 update (24 April 2020, 5.45pm)

### Topics in this Core Brief:

- Visors advice
- Testing of key workers
- Uniforms
- Transport
- Food donations

### Visor advice

Since the start of COVID-19, the guidance has been consistent in relation to the PPE aspect of eye protection. In the most part eye protection has consisted of a visor or goggles.

At the start of the outbreak, the Board were supplied with a small number of re-usable visors (refer attached photos) and cleaning instructions were circulated for these at the time.

However the majority of the visors purchased to date and going forward are disposable visors which are designed for single use (refer photos attached).



Visor - ICL (re-useable)



Visor - Alpha Solway (single use)

Single use means products or items that are intended for once only/one-person use and should be disposed of after each session, where a session is defined as a single session this refers to a period of time where a health care worker is undertaking duties in a specific clinical care setting or exposure environment. The duration of a single session will vary depending on the clinical activity being undertaken. Once the PPE has been removed it should be disposed of safely as clinical waste.

Visors supplied to the NHS should be regulated as PPE and be CE marked as evidence that they've pass strict standards for safety and effectiveness, although there are now COVID-19 exemptions to CE marking. In response to the large number of non-CE marked visors being procured or donated through public groups and companies, the Medical Devices Unit have established an NHSGGC visor quality assurance facility at West Glasgow ACH where technical testing to the ISO 166 eye protection standard and are working with Infection Control and Nursing Governance & Regulation for formal clinical evaluation.

Staff should forward any enquiries coming through public channels to this email address: [covid-19@ggcprocurementcustomerservices.zendesk.com](mailto:covid-19@ggcprocurementcustomerservices.zendesk.com) in the first instance.

## Testing of key workers

The national announcement yesterday by Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to expand testing to include all essential workers in England will extend to Scotland in due course. In the meantime, health and social care staff in Greater Glasgow and Clyde, including GPs and dentists, community pharmacists and care home staff, should continue to access testing for staff and household contacts through the line management referral form [eform available here](#).

## Uniforms

In a previous Core Brief the Chief Executive provided a link to [Keeping COVID-19 out of your home](#) which includes really useful tips to keep you and your household safe, both physically and mentally.

As a reminder guidance states that staff should not travel to work in their uniforms. In relation to COVID-19 it states that this is more to do with public perception than the actual risk of spreading the virus.

At the end of your shift you should change into your own clothes and take your uniform home in a disposable plastic bag, which should be put into your household waste stream. Uniforms should be:

- washed separately from other items
- in a load not more than half the machine capacity
- at the hottest temperature appropriate for the fabric, then ironed or tumbled-dried

We recognise that community health workers may be unable to do this and therefore you should remove your uniform when you get home and place this in the washing machine and then wash your hands.

The single most important step staff can take to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus is to wash their hands and forearms thoroughly at the end of their shift and when they get home.

## Transport

SPT are making a number of changes to supported bus services from Monday 27 April. This will result in some services being altered/withdrawn.

Can staff please regularly check on the [Hot Topics area of StaffNet](#) for any changes that may affect their journey.

## Food donations

Over the last few weeks we have all been surprised and overwhelmed by the generosity of the public providing donations for patients and staff.

From individuals to businesses and charity organisations all types of services have been donated to staff and it has been greatly appreciated.

However, donations of food, especially “chilled” and “hot” carry a risk and we want staff to think before they accept and consume any type of food that is delivered direct to an individual ward or department.

Donated food doesn't come with the same protection as food prepared on site by our catering staff, therefore, when you consume this type of food you do so at your own risk.

Particularly high risk foods, either “hot” or “cold”, which should be temperature controlled to ensure a standard of safety. If these products are left out at room temperature for a period of time then they become unsafe to eat.

There are no concerns with low risk items such as tea, coffee, soft drinks, crisps, confectionary, etc. These are items that are individually wrapped, do not require refrigeration and have a good use by date.

More importantly donated food items should never be offered to any patients within our hospitals.

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: [www.nhsqgc.org.uk/covid19](http://www.nhsqgc.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](#).

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