

Core brief

Daily COVID-19 update (18 May 2020, 5.05pm)

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Life on the Frontline

The third in our series of **Life on the Frontline**, sees a [personal account from Jenny Davison](#).

Jenny is a Physiotherapist for East Dunbartonshire HSCP and tells the story of how her work and home life has changed during the COVID-19 outbreak as well as what she is most proud of.



New COVID-19 symptoms confirmed

A statement was issued today from the four UK Chief Medical Officers on an update to Coronavirus symptoms. From today, all individuals should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough, fever or anosmia.

Anosmia is the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell. It can also affect your sense of taste as the two are closely linked. The individual's household should also self-isolate for 14 days as per the current guidelines and the individual should stay at home for 7 days, or longer if they still have symptoms **other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste**.

You can use the online guide at NHS Inform to get more details on symptoms and advice on what it means to stay at home - [NHS Inform](#). This is currently being updated with the new symptoms.

Symptoms for staff testing have been updated to include the new symptoms of loss of sense of smell or taste, along with the previous symptoms of a continuous cough or fever.

The [Staff Testing Referral Form](#) can be used for both line manager referral and staff self-referral for themselves or their symptomatic household contact. It should be agreed between the member of staff and the line manager who will complete the referral to ensure that it is submitted and that the member of staff/household contacted is tested. Please note that the current form does not currently include anosmia and staff should select one of the other symptoms for now.

Professor Marion Bain takes up new post

Professor Marion Bain has been appointed as interim Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, alongside Dr Nicola Steedman whose appointment was announced in April.

Professor Bain has been working since January 2020 as the Director of Infection Prevention and Control at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Her appointment was made as part of the arrangements put in place when the Board was escalated to Level 4 on the performance framework for infection control and communications and engagement with families.

In her new capacity, Professor Bain will retain oversight of the case note review of haemato-oncology patients which is currently underway.

Professor Angela Wallace, Director of Nursing within NHS Forth Valley, will continue to support NHSGGC in the operational delivery of infection prevention and control.

Support and Information Service (SIS)

NHSGGC Support and Information Service are located within the main atrium of NHSGGC hospital sites including QEUH, RAH, GRI, Stobhill ACH and New Victoria. Family Support and Information services is located within the atrium of the RHC. These services offer a wide range of non-clinical support to patients, carers, family members and staff.

During COVID-19 key areas of support that can be offered include:

- At QEUH, RHC, RAH and GRI only: Provision of a 2-day patient emergency food on discharge bags to vulnerable patients experiencing poverty, money difficulties, or social isolation (includes brief conversation about emergency fuel and money)
- Provision of toiletries to patients who require them
- Telephone advice and onward referral to money advice and financial inclusion services
- Fuel & energy card referral for eligible patients, carers and families
- Referrals to local food banks, information on food shopping/delivery services and pharmacy pick up services
- Referral to social isolation support groups, crisis support and carers centres
- Information relating to support with mental wellbeing including stress, anxiety and spiritual care
- Additionally at Family Support within the RHC we can provide Emergency Fund (immediate access to cash grant of £5-50 for families of RHC in emergency), Family Fund applications (for families who's child has had a hospital stay longer than two weeks) and access to clothes and toiletries.

For more information or to refer a patient from your ward or clinic area: Tel: 0141 452 2387

Email: sis@ggc.scot.nhs.uk Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

For further information please contact: Maureen O'Neill Craig, Health Improvement Lead, Public Health, Employment and Health Team.

E-mail: Maureen.O'NeillCraig@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or telephone 07984 003221.

Information on local services in your area can be found at: <http://infodir.nhsggc.org.uk/>

Art in hospitals online resource to mark Mental Health Awareness Week (18-24 May)

The Glasgow based Arts and Health Charity, Art in Hospital, has launched 'Looking Through A Window' an online arts activity resource in response to the restrictions of COVID-19 so that Art in Hospital can continue to provide a service to patients, staff and care providers.

From this week, art packs with links to the Through the Window website will be available to staff in the R&R Hubs.

For more information, visit: www.aih-throughawindow.com

Extension of free car parking at GRI till September

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Jeane Freeman, has today announced an extension to free parking at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Staff, visitors and patients at GRI will continue to access free car parking until the end of September 2020. This follows the announcement in March that parking charges at these hospitals would be suspended for an initial period of three months.

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](#)**