

Core brief

Daily COVID-19 update (21 May 2020, 3.45pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Emma Thompson video message
- Interim Board meeting
- Food donations

Emma Thompson, actor, screenwriter and activist video message to staff

Emma Thompson has kindly donated PPE to Inverclyde Royal Hospital through the Mail Force charity and sent a video message to NHSGGC staff. [Click here to watch video.](#)

Emma, who has always split her time between London and the West of Scotland, is currently staying with her family in Dunoon. She saw that Inverclyde was one of the worst hit areas in Scotland by COVID-19 and reached out to support.

Thanks to her donation, the charity Mail Force, have donated 5,000 aprons to Inverclyde Royal Hospital.

Emma told us: “Newspapers can often make you feel quite helpless but the Daily Mail’s Mail Force charity is practical and useful and genuinely required. When they asked if I’d like my donation to go towards a particular place, I immediately thought of Inverclyde. They have been amazing to cope and pull together against the odds in all of this.

“The NHS expresses the best of us: a sense of social morality, mutual responsibility and care towards one another that as we see in this crisis, is the most important part of all our institutions, there is nothing else. The only thing that stands between us and calamity in this crisis is the NHS. We’ve seen how valuable it is. So it’s important to not just clap but to also make sure we value it in a real and functional way - with more resources, funding and staff.”

Interim Board meeting – Tuesday 19 May 2020

The NHSGGC Board has temporarily delegated all governance responsibilities to an Interim Board. The Interim Board meets fortnightly and has oversight of our response to COVID-19 and responsibility for any other matters that would ordinarily come to the Board or the Standing Committees at this time.

At its latest meeting the Interim Board received three papers on COVID: a general update from the Chief Executive; the COVID-19 risk register; and, a progress report on the Board’s recovery plan. [The papers can be read in full here.](#)

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting of the Chairs of NHS Boards with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, at which Ms Freeman expressed her thanks and gratitude to all staff for their continued professional response to the pandemic.

Key issues discussed by the Interim Board included:

- Recognition for the important contribution being made by volunteers – the Board heard that more than 700 volunteers have been recruited and are currently providing support in a number of areas including support for the R&R hubs, signposting and the Give and Go project. Their invaluable contribution will be celebrated during Volunteers' Week which takes place from 1 -7 June.
- The importance of ongoing support for staff - Staff well-being and support remains vital and the Board heard how the Recovery Plan will include a plan for recuperation and longer term psychological and mental health support for staff, including care home staff.
- Support for care homes – the Interim Board heard that NHSGGC and the HSCPs are working collaboratively to support care homes within the area.
- Test, trace, isolate, support – the Director for Public Health advised the Board on the arrangements in place to deploy existing staff to carry out contact tracing and on the good progress being made to set this up.
- Development of the COVID-19 Recovery Plan – the Interim Board heard of the arrangements underway to develop the plan, taking into account social distancing, the ongoing need to treat COVID-19 patients and the opportunities to embed and build on new approaches introduced in response to the pandemic.

Food donations

We have previously asked staff to think before they accept and consume any type of food that is delivered direct to an individual ward or department.

Everyone is understandably overwhelmed by the generosity of the public providing donations. However, donations of food, especially “chilled” and “hot” carry a food safety risk and do not come with the same protection as food bought from our own outlets. Therefore, when you consume this type of food you do so at your own risk.

At the moment our patients are not receiving visitors and it may be tempting to offer donated food such as pizza, curries and other similar foods to them.

While the intentions are good, staff must be aware that this could be a serious risk to our patients. Notwithstanding the food safety aspects, our patients may be at risk from food allergies or even a risk of choking. A number of our patients will be on therapeutic diets for a number of reasons such as renal disease, coeliac disease and food that is not suitable can be very damaging.

So we ask again that staff do not to offer donated food items to any patients within our hospitals.

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](#).

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