

Core brief

Daily update
(15 April 2021, 12.25pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Lateral Flow Testing – Alan McClean
- HR COVID Support Team update - Returning Shielders
- SSTS / eESS reminder
- The Greenock Telegraph Health & Care Awards 2021

Lateral Flow Testing – Alan McClean

Podiatry has continued to see high risk patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, covering hospital wards, high risk clinics, house calls and visits to residents of care and nursing homes.

The ability to undertake Lateral Flow testing is an assurance to staff that we are helping to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Alan McClean, Specialist Podiatrist, said: “Initially we had some patients who were shielding and reluctant to allow us to visit. Lateral Flow testing gives the ability to demonstrate that we have tested negative and confidence for people that it is safe for us to attend.

“For NHS staff providing these interventions, care and nursing homes are understandably cautious about who enters and in following their guidelines require visitors to undertake temperature checks and complete documentation regarding our exposure to COVID-19 and track and trace details.

“Like my fellow colleagues I undertake my test twice weekly and carry a photograph of my latest result on my mobile phone to show to before entering each home. This easy step assists with quick entry into care and nursing homes without taking time out of my day. The home staff are also delighted as it saves time away from the residents having to test me when I arrive.

“I’m more than happy to continue to test twice weekly as it’s a simple and quick test which provides assurance for our high risk and vulnerable patients and for staff.”

All staff currently working on our sites are eligible for Lateral Flow testing. For more information visit our [website](#), which should answer any questions you might have. If there is anything that isn’t covered and you need some further help, please email: ggc.lft@ggc.scot.nhs.uk



HR COVID Support Team update - Returning Shielders

It is important to support shielding employees as plans are put in place to support their return to work. In order to help managers support employees who have been shielding, the team have created a checklist to ensure all necessary steps are taken to ensure employees return safely to work.

It is anticipated that the return to a working environment will be a big transition for employees who have been off for a prolonged period of time and to some it may be challenging and overwhelming. It is important to keep this in mind and offer understanding, compassion and flexibility.

All managers who have recorded an employee absent on SSTS as COVID Special Leave: Underlying Health Condition should now have received an email at the start of the month from the team with the [Staff Returning from Shielding: Checklist and enhanced return to/remaining at work pack](#).

For further information please use the link above or the [FAQs](#).

Managers should complete the enhanced return to work/remaining at work checklist for all employees returning from shielding, prior to the employees return to work or where alternative duties have been implemented for any other employees. It is still expected where staff can, they should continue to work from home.

Please ensure that when an employee has returned to work in any capacity, including working from home, SSTS is updated and an appropriate absence end date is added.

Lateral Flow testing is available to all employees returning from shielding who will not be home workers. For information and guidance please use the link: [NHSGGC: Lateral Flow Device Testing Guidance](#)

Any questions, support or guidance on anything mentioned above please do not hesitate to contact the team by email at staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

SSTS / eESS reminder

We know that many colleagues are working additional hours or working differently in the bid to respond to the COVID-19 situation, and we are grateful to everyone for their efforts.

It is important that staff are paid promptly and correctly for the work that they do, and we would ask managers and staff to work together to ensure that all shifts and absences are recorded and authorised accurately and timely on SSTS and also that all new or changed contractual commitments e.g. changes to pay bands, weekly hours, leavers, etc. are recorded and authorised accurately and timely on eESS to ensure that this happens.

If you require support or training on how to do this then the relevant teams can be contacted at SSTSTeam.ngd@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or eESS@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

The Greenock Telegraph Health & Care Awards 2021

Staff at Inverclyde Royal Hospital have been nominated in the Greenock Telegraph's Health & Care Awards. The awards will be broadcast today (Thursday April 15) at 6pm via the Greenock Telegraph's Facebook page (@greenocktelegraph). It will be hosted by radio presenter Jennifer Reoch. Good luck to all our nominated staff and teams!

Social distancing is everyone's responsibility

Remember 2m distancing includes breaks and lunchtimes



Do it, encourage it. Don't spread the virus at work or home

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](#)