

Core brief

Daily update
(13 December 2021, 7.05pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Self-Isolation Exemption for Staff - Updated 10 December 2021
- Ordering supplies for the festive season
- Nurses and Midwives – Learning Needs Questionnaire
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Self-Isolation Exemption for Staff - Updated 10 December 2021

As you will be aware the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is increasing in prevalence and it is extremely likely there will be many more cases confirmed in the coming days. In light of this emerging threat the First Minister outlined enhanced measures with regard to self-isolation for the general public which came into effect on 11 December.

However, within health and social care, a high number of staff isolating would put additional pressure on already fragile services, therefore, it has now been confirmed that **current guidance** health and social care staff should still be applied with one important addition. This existing isolation policy for staff who are household or passing contacts of COVID-19 positive cases, exempts them from the requirement to self-isolate for 10 days when they:

- are double-vaccinated;
- are asymptomatic and remain asymptomatic,
- undertake PCR test (which returns a negative test result before returning to work), and;
- undertake daily LFD testing for the remainder of the 10 day period.

An important addition to this is that staff must be

- double vaccinated **and had their booster**

In accordance with the terms of this existing policy and the new addition, staff are ordinarily expected to return to work if they meet the conditions above and comply with the testing requirements set out. This **replaces** the previous recent advice which outlined that staff, if informed by test and protect to be a close contact of omicron, will have to self-isolate.

This means that any staff household contacts who are currently isolating, but meet the conditions above, as well as the addition of the booster are able to return to work.

Ordering supplies for the festive season

With the festive season nearly upon us to avoid any problems with your supplies for the period, could you please ascertain your requirements for the period covering 24 December to 3 January and place your orders for stationery, medical supplies, and general supplies as soon as possible.

If you currently order your supplies via Pecos remote ordering, you should process your requirements by Wednesday 15 December 2021.

If you order using a paper indent, can all indents be with Procurement by Wednesday 15 December 2021.

In areas serviced by Ward Product Management teams (WPM), there is no requirement for you to place any additional orders as the WPM team will arrange this.

All indents received after the 15 December will still be processed however, these orders may not be received by the suppliers in sufficient time to have the required goods, delivered before 24 December.

NDC orders should be placed in accordance with your normal levels, there is no requirement to over order.

Any queries regarding the above should be directed to Procurement Customer Services:
support@ggcprocurementcustomerservices.zendesk.com

Thanking you in anticipation of your cooperation with the above request.

Nurses and Midwives – Learning Needs Questionnaire

For those nurses and midwives who have completed the Practice Supervisor/Assessor learning resource on TURAS, the Practice Education Team are conducting a survey to allow us to understand your specific learning needs. This will enable us to tailor practical support sessions to help you with supporting and assessing students in practice. It will be live until 16 January 2022.

If you have completed the TURAS modules, you should have received an email with a link to the online questionnaire. We would be grateful if you can complete it and it will only take a few minutes. If you haven't received an email but have completed the TURAS modules, here is the link: [Learning Needs Questionnaire](#).

Two metre physical distancing within NHSGGC

As a reminder to staff, **two metre physical distancing** remains in place across NHSGGC, this includes the following areas: office spaces, general circulation spaces such as lift halls, foyer areas, entrances/exits, canteen, shops, lecture halls, meeting rooms, office spaces outside clinical areas (this list is not exhaustive).

All individuals in these common circulating spaces (staff, patients, visitors, contractors, volunteers) must wear face masks/coverings in line with [Scottish Government guidance](#) or FRSM in line with extended use of FRSM policy. Where staff remove FRSMs for any reason e.g. eating, drinking, changing, staff are to maintain two metre physical distancing. Appropriate face masks/coverings should be applied following such activity.

There are some clinical areas/services that may reduce to one metre physical distancing, however this **will only happen** once a robust risk assessment has been conducted and approved through the relevant governance processes/structures. The requirement to wear face mask/covering will still be required.

Guidance and supporting Addendums are available [here](#).

Lateral Flow Tests - Available to all staff working on site

Speak to your line manager about where to collect your test kit, then:

		
Register your kit	Test twice per week	Record your results

Keep your colleagues and patients safe from COVID-19

Help stop the spread!

Visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/lfid-stafftesting

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: HR.Support@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](#)**