

Core brief

Daily update

(24 January 2022, 4.55pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Inpatients to benefit from the support of one visitor from Tuesday 25 January

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From tomorrow, Tuesday 25 January, temporary essential visiting restrictions will be lifted and adult inpatients across NHSGGC hospitals will be able to benefit from the support of one visitor per day in most circumstances.

The change includes all adult inpatient wards, including mental health. The visitor can change each day.

Additionally, all maternity wards will now be able to support two visitors – one essential, and one additional person. Visits must be arranged in advance with the ward to enable us all to follow physical distancing rules.

In wards where a COVID-19 outbreak is being managed, essential visiting may be reintroduced on a temporary basis to help protect staff, patients and visitors until the situation can be resolved.

This easing of visiting restrictions follows a decrease in the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and is in line with a national easing of restrictions as outlined by the Scottish Government last week.

Visitors planning on making a trip to hospital to visit an inpatient are reminded of the following safety measures which remain in place:

1. Please consider the additional potential risk visiting may bring to patients, family members and staff, when deciding whether to visit
2. Before you visit please undertake a Lateral Flow Test to help ensure you do not have COVID-19
3. Unless exempt, you must continue to wear a face mask throughout your visit.
4. Please use hand gel on arrival, departure and when you come into contact with surfaces during your visit.
5. Maintain a physical distance of two metres wherever possible
6. Do not visit if you have symptoms of COVID-19, or if you are isolating due to contact with a person with COVID-19 unless in specific and limited situations such as end of life care.

Jennifer Rodgers, Deputy Nurse Director, Corporate and Community, said: “We know how important it is for patients to be able to receive the support of at least one visitor per day. The move to essential visiting was only ever temporary and in light of the reducing impact of Omicron in the community and on our hospitals, we’ve worked as quickly as possible to enable the change which will come into effect from Tuesday 25 January.

“While the news is welcomed, we would still urge caution and advise all visitors to ensure they’re familiar with the safety guidelines in place to help minimise any potential spread of the virus. These guidelines are available to view on the NHSGGC website under the visiting pages.”

Angela O'Neill, Deputy Nurse Director Acute Services, added: "We would like to thank our patients and the public for their patience and understanding during this difficult and challenging time. We continue to monitor the situation and where it's safe and appropriate to do so, we will look to further ease visiting restrictions as we work towards moving back to full person centred visiting."

Full details of the changes to visiting can be found here: <https://www.nhsggc.scot/hospitals-services/our-hospitals/>

Lateral Flow Tests - Available to all staff

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



Register
your kit



Test
daily



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.

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