Staff Helplines – Updated location

We have a number of helplines and support options available for staff. You can find this information on the NHS Lothian Staff page for COVID-19.

Important Information

Face Covering on Public Transport

In response to the Scottish Government directive on Thursday 18th June, everyone travelling on public transport from Monday 22nd June 2020 will be required to wear a face covering. The Scottish Taxi Federation asked for clarification regarding taxis and currently there is no requirement for a taxi driver to wear a mask if there is a partition, however passengers will be required to wear a face covering regardless of vehicle type.

From Monday 22nd June when using taxis and/or private hire vehicles, passengers must wear a face covering.

The following groups are exempt from the mandatory use of face coverings in such vehicles namely:

- Under 5-year olds
- Those with breathing difficulties
- Those with physical conditions which make it hard to keep a mask in place.

Update from Public Health England

You may have seen that Public Health England have issued a further update to COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance on 18th June however please note no change to current practice in NHS Lothian is advised until the update has been fully reviewed and a consensus reached on any change required.

In partnership with staff trade union representatives and relevant clinical teams, the IPCT (Infection Prevention Control Team) and senior management are considering the updated guidance and what this means for practice locally.

The update provides further clarification of aerosol generating procedures (AGP) and appropriate use of FFP3 respirators.
Although the number of new cases of COVID-19 has decreased and remains low, the UK and NHS Lothian is still considered to be in a period of sustained community transmission, and precautions to minimise risk of transmission, including the use of PPE, therefore remain in place.

If you have information that you would like to be considered for the Speed Read please send it to lothian.communications@nhs.net by 3.30pm each day. Please ensure that your service is content with information before sending.

Staff Health

Recurring Staff health information
The current Staff Health and Wellbeing information can be found on NHS Lothian website by clicking here: https://staff.nhslothian.scot/COVID-19/Pages/NHS-Lothian-Staff-Wellbeing.aspx

A Reminder

This Section contains previously issued important information, which is unchanged

Workforce Guidance

Organisational Change – Short-term service changes

In line with the agreed approach to the COVID-19 response that non-essential meetings/work should be stepped down, general organisational changes were put on hold and the Workforce Organisational Change Group (WOCG) was therefore stood down. The Scottish Partnership Forum issued guidance on Partnership Arrangements which confirmed that organisational changes should be paused and this guidance remains in place. However, the local Partnership Group recognised that short-term changes linked to COVID-19 or remobilisation were still required and a more flexible approach was needed to support the pace of these short-term changes.

On that basis, a set of principles have been developed to address these specific needs. These principles should be adopted in all short-term changes. Where it is determined the changes should continue long-term, these will require formal sign off by the WOCG when restarted. The principles document is available in the Workforce Guidance section of the COVID-19 hub.

Public Transport (Issued Friday 19 June for this week commencing 22nd June)

Lothian Buses is making the following adjustments to their timetables this week (Week commencing 22nd June). Further details on their services are available on their website below.

Specifically for the RIE site, the frequency changes are as follows:

- Services 7 & 33 increased to every 20-mins on Monday to Fridays
- Services 8, 24 & 48 increased to every 30-mins on Mondays to Saturdays
- Service 21 increased to every 20-mins on Mondays to Saturdays and every 30-mins on Sundays
- Service 38 increased to every 30-mins on Mondays to Fridays, hourly on Saturdays & Sundays
- Service 49 increased to every 20-mins on Mondays to Fridays between The Fort and Sheriffhall, hourly to and from Rosewell
Service 400 increased to every 30-mins on Mondays to Saturdays, with route extended to Fort Kinnaird on all days of the week

Specifically for the Western General site, the frequency changes are as follows:

- Service 19 increased to every 30-mins on Mondays to Saturdays and a new hourly Sunday service introduced
- Service 21 increased to every 20-mins on Mondays to Saturdays and every 30-mins on Sundays
- Service 24 & 29 increased to every 30-mins on Mondays to Saturdays
- Service 37 – additional morning journeys introduced on Mondays to Fridays from Penicuik to Silverknowes
- Service 38 increased to every 30-mins on Mondays to Fridays, hourly on Saturdays & Sundays
- Service 47 – additional peak journeys introduced on Mondays to Fridays and new hourly Saturday service introduced
- Service 113 – Monday to Saturday frequency increased to every 30-mins

https://www.lothianbuses.com/timetables

First bus has no plans to make any new adjustments to timetables this week (Week commencing 22nd June). However, it will be operating services using more double deck vehicles to meet social distancing requirements and have launched an updated app to provide users with advanced notice of bus capacity. Further details on their services, how they plan to manage demand and social distancing and the ability to feedback directly to the operator are available on both weblinks below:


Scotrail has no plans to make any new adjustments to timetables this week (Week commencing 22nd June). Further details on their services and how they plan to manage social distancing are available on their website - www.scotrail.co.uk

Changes to on-Street Pay and Display Parking - reminder

From Monday 22 June, the City of Edinburgh Council will resume charges for on-street pay and display parking. For more information on this change, as well as parking prices and times please visit the City of Edinburgh Council website - https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parking.

Validated Statistics as at 1400

There have been 233,535 people in Scotland have been tested for Covid-19

- 215,365 confirmed negative
- 18,170 positive
- 2,472 patients who tested positive have sadly died.

Important Reminders

You can now find useful links for the latest guidance and information on the COVID-19 Base on the intranet above the daily Speed Reads.
If you have any communication related questions please email: lothian.communications@nhs.net