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

Guidance on extended use of face masks and face coverings in Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government has issued new interim guidance on the extended use of face masks and face coverings in hospitals and care homes. We will be introducing this on Monday 29th June, as requested.

The guidance (published 23 June) is based on new and emerging evidence and its main purpose is to prevent transmission of COVID-19 from the person wearing the face mask. This is important where a person has contracted the virus but does not yet display symptoms (pre-symptomatic), or is carrying the virus and has no symptoms (asymptomatic). It is also particularly important in reducing the risk of transmission where staff are unable to physically distance from their work colleagues.

The main change is that all clinical staff and all non-clinical staff who are ward-based (e.g. domestic staff, administrative staff) are now asked to wear a surgical mask at all times during their shift. Staff who do not work within a clinical/care area (e.g. offices, shops, canteen staff within hospitals) should not in general be required to wear a surgical face mask on the premises.

Where any staff are unable to maintain 2 metre physical distance from others, they should use a surgical face mask. Staff are not required to wear a medical face mask during mealtimes in staff restaurants or when in changing rooms but should observe 2 metre physical distancing at all times.

Staff are now also encouraged to consider wearing a non-medical fabric face covering outwith the clinical areas, when not on duty, and where it is not possible to observe physical distancing measures, in particular hospital shops, in line with national guidance.

The additional guidance is on the Scottish Government website and is available through this link. Please note that this guidance supplements and does not replace any part of current UK PPE guidance on the management of patient or resident care, which is published on the Health Protection Scotland website, and is available here.
There will be times where staff may wish not to wear a mask, or remove it, e.g. when communicating with patients who have a cognitive impairment, or people who require to lip read. In such circumstances the staff member can remove their mask but must ensure they follow physical distancing protocols. If a mask is removed for any reason, it should be disposed of in the correct waste bin, hand hygiene undertaken and another mask put on.

There may be instances of staff who experience breathing difficulties or who suffer from genuine discomfort or distress when wearing a facemask, which is why we will ensure that the guidance is implemented in a way that has regard to staff wellbeing. “Any staff who have concerns should discuss these with their line manager in the first instance,” said Lindsay Guthrie, Lead Infection Prevention and Control Nurse, NHS Lothian.

“We are currently working with colleagues across staff Partnerships, facilities, procurement and health & social care clinical leads to ensure that appropriate adaptations are made to the physical environment to promote physical distancing and that all staff have access to surgical face masks and hand hygiene in the workplace. Staff safety and wellbeing is our first priority.”

Microsoft Teams: Information Governance Guidance on Public and Private Teams

Microsoft Teams is a great place to communicate and collaborate with colleagues. However, there are a few things that you should be aware of to ensure that your Team and the Files and Chat shared within it are secure and accessible only to the right people. Please see this [guide](http://information.governance@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) for:

- Three key things to know about private and public teams
- Who can create a Team?
- Governance and setting access permissions for Teams.

Additional information governance guidance can be requested via Information.governance@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk or by self-logging a call on e85050 Service Desk and the IT Security queue.

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](https://staff.nhslothian.scot/COVID-19/Pages/NHS-Lothian-Staff-Wellbeing.aspx)

A Reminder

This Section contains previously issued important information, which is unchanged -

FREE webinar for Health & Social Care staff on the use of the FREE Feeling Good App for patients/clients/self – 1 July, 7-8pm

Dr Alastair Dobbin will talk about the use of the Feeling Good App in health & social care, illustrated with a short presentation followed by open Q&As. Feeling Good is a relaxation-based audio programme that improves sleep, resilience and wellbeing through reducing stress, anxiety and depression. To sign up, click on the following link - [Eventbrite](http://eventbrite.com).
Chancellor’s Building @ RIE – Message from the University of Edinburgh

Now that the Scottish Government has announced that laboratory work can recommence from 29th June, we are making plans for University staff to return to work in the Chancellor’s Building at Edinburgh BioQuarter. In order to do this safely, we are required to limit the number of people who can access the building at any one time and will be introducing a number of measures to implement social distancing. This unfortunately means that from 29th June NHS Lothian staff will not be able to access the Chancellor’s Building unless on University-related business.

The health and safety of our staff, students and visitors is our top priority. We hope these arrangements will be temporary and we will keep them under constant review, in line with restrictions placed on us by the Scottish Government. We look forward to welcoming our NHS colleagues again as soon as we are able.

Validated Statistics as at 1400

A total of 238,076 people in Scotland have been tested through NHS Scotland labs and the UK Government testing programme to date. Of these:

- 219,885 were confirmed negative
- 18,191 were positive
- Of the people who have tested positive, 2,480 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