Important Information

Reducing workplace risk from COVID-19

It is essential that we work together to reduce the COVID risk in our workplaces as much as we practically can. No area is completely safe from COVID-19 if we don’t observe the rules of hygiene and social distancing. The virus is most commonly spread by droplets, so please remember to follow the advice for social distancing, namely:

- Where possible, stay 2 metres away from other people
- Work from home, where possible
- Travel as safely as possible
- Wash your hands, follow cough/sneeze etiquette
- Minimise the number of people you meet with.

Sometimes it is not possible to maintain 2 metres physical distance when we are working, but we must follow the rule whenever we can. It is particularly important to remember that we should not let our guard down in ‘green’ zones’, or, for that matter, when we are in the supermarket during NHS and key worker hour! Physical distance rules are extremely important wherever you are, not just in high risk ‘red zones.’

Colleagues from Occupational Health have produced guidance and advice on reducing the risk from COVID-19 in the workplace (available on the COVID-19 base of the intranet - published under ‘Other Staff Updates’ on 20th May - or click on the following link: Reducing Workplace Risk COVID-19

The guidance concludes: “We are working with COVID now and will need to work with it for some time to come. Let’s work together to reduce the risks in our workplaces.”

Also, see the ‘COVID-19 protecting yourself and others’ poster on the intranet, available through this link: protecting yourself and others.
NHS Lothian in the news – the Emergency Eyecare Treatment Centre

STV News featured a positive piece yesterday evening, reminding the public that we are here for them when they need urgent healthcare advice or treatment. STV News showcased the work of the Emergency Eyecare Treatment Centre (EETC), which we opened in the Lothian Optometry Teach and Treat (LOTT) Clinic at the Lauriston Building to support emergency face-to-face eyecare during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Links to the STV piece are on the intranet at
http://intranet.lothian.scot.nhs.uk/News/LatestNews/Pages/EmergencyEyeCareCentreonSTV.aspx
and on the NHS Lothian website at:
https://news.nhslothian.scot/Pages/20200603_EmergencyEyecareTreatmentCentreonSTV.aspx

A news article describing the work of the EETC is on the intranet at:
http://intranet.lothian.scot.nhs.uk/News/LatestNews/Pages/20200602_EETC.aspx
and on the NHS Lothian website at: https://news.nhslothian.scot/Pages/20200602_EETC.aspx

Mental health and COVID-19 – how to support recovery?

The COVID-19 pandemic will undoubtedly have many psychological impacts on the people of Scotland. This will have short, medium and long term consequences for the services designed to support mental health. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Scotland is hosting an online event on Wednesday 17 June (6.30pm – 7.45pm) with virtual discussions on how health professionals, organisations and service users can work collaboratively to respond to the challenges of the pandemic and the key role mental health nursing plays in providing support for people at all stages of life. The event will be chaired by Theresa Fyffe, RCN Scotland Director, who will be joined by:

- David Thomson, Associate Director of Nursing, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, and Chair of the Mental Health Nursing Forum Scotland
- Professor John Crichton, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland and Vice President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists UK
- Representative from SeeMe Scotland (to be confirmed).

To reserve your place, please register here: https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/rcnscotland-public-debate-2020

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 –

Black and Minority Ethnic staff – the impacts of COVID-19 - reminder

NHS Lothian is acutely aware of the concern felt by members of staff who believe they may be more vulnerable to the ill effects of the coronavirus than others. We know through the work of our BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Staff Network that our own BME staff have particular concerns, because of the evidence
emerging from England and Wales about the disproportionate risk for some Black and Minority Ethnic people from the effects of the virus.

The BMF Staff Network, Union representatives, professional bodies, elected members, and other advocates have told us about these concerns, and we take them very seriously. We have a duty of care to all of our employees, and that means that if we know some people are particularly vulnerable to a particular risk, we must make any reasonable adjustments we can.

Health Boards across Scotland are working with the Scottish Government to agree a national response to this challenge. At present, there is no reliable data in Scotland to indicate whether the disproportionate impact seen in England is happening in Scotland. Until we do have data, we will continue to support all staff to work safely, carrying out individual risk assessments wherever required.

NHS Lothian seeks to ensure that line managers are supported to have sensitive, supportive conversations with Black and Minority Ethnic staff that consider their health, safety and psychological wellbeing. Occupational health advice should be followed; psychological support, where sought, is available for staff across the NHS Lothian system. If you want to discuss your own personal circumstances, please contact the Staff Network via Rakiya.Suleiman@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Remobilisation and Ward Reconfiguration – Reminder

Infection Prevention and Control are receiving a high number of requests to review reconfigurations in services and departments as part of remobilisation plans.

The COVID-19 SMG Gold Group has agreed that there needs to be an organisational approach to this, as there are multiple aspects to be considered wider than infection prevention and control, e.g. capacity, flow, workforce planning, estates, environment, client group, shielding, red and green pathways, etc.

In order to support departments, the Tactical Group chaired by Colin Briggs is coordinating development of guidance for services to support a systematic approach inclusive of all aspects. It is recognised one size doesn’t fit all, but it will have principles which can be adapted for the type of area/service.

Infection Prevention and Control continue to prioritise pandemic and outbreak management and with limited resources available, ask departments to consider a hold on requests, until the guidance is available.

Emollients and Hand Care – Reminder

Emollients, e.g. Zerovene, Zerobase, Oilatum were added to stock orders over 3 weeks ago. Managers are reminded they can continue to order these products through their normal pharmacy requisition process for general use by staff in the clinical areas.

Staff are reminded to continue to use emollients after every episode of hand washing and to follow the General Hand Care Advice.

The dedicated COVID-19 staff skin clinics continue to run. The clinic can be accessed by completing the proforma and following the referral process.

Full information on Skin Care can be found on the Staff Support section of the Covid-19 Hub PPE Intranet Pages.

St John’s Movie

St John’s Hospital have created a short movie to express what makes staff feel proud to work at the hospital. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to the Medical Photography team who produced the video. Enjoy! Please note this new link: https://vimeo.com/425181559
Validated Statistics as at 1400
A total of 118,573 people in Scotland have been tested through NHS labs to date. Of these:

- 103,069 were confirmed negative
- 15,504 were positive
- 2,386 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