For ease of access, please print and leave in staff areas for colleagues.

All Speed Reads are available on intranet in Covid Base or on the external site here

ISSUED: 15 JUNE 2020

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

NHS Lothian Remdesivir Treatment Guidance

Remdesivir is an unlicensed medicine being provided through the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS) for the treatment of patients hospitalised with suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who meet the clinical criteria.

Patients most likely to benefit are those at an early stage of a COVID-19 infection who have high probability of developing severe disease. Contact the Infectious Diseases (ID) Consultant on call for approval to use Remdesivir.

Guidance on the use of Remdesivir to treat COVID-19 patients has been approved by NHS Lothian’s Drug and Therapeutics Committee and is on the COVID-19 Base of the intranet, under ‘Other Staff Updates’, or you can access it through the following link: NHS Lothian Remdesivir Guidance.

Researchers praise “fantastic response” to COVID-19 Vaccine Trial

As reported previously, NHS Lothian is collaborating with Oxford University and 17 other sites across the UK in a major clinical vaccine trial testing the new COVID-19 vaccine. There has been a tremendous response to the vaccine study, launched last month and running at the Western General Hospital and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

“We had a fantastic response, with over 2,700 people in Lothian, Fife and the Borders applying for the study,” said Dr Rebecca Sutherland, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, NHS Lothian. “680 front line health and social care workers were screened by the team and we reached our initial target, given to us by Oxford, of 490 participants vaccinated.

“There are likely to be further vaccine trials, including one for older participants in the near future, and we will contact those who were interested, but that we could not accommodate in the first arm of the study,
over the next few weeks and months. We would like to thank all those who have taken part - it has been a huge undertaking but the goodwill from all involved has been incredible.”

This pioneering and important research allows us the opportunity to contribute to the development of a globally approved vaccine against COVID-19. We are grateful to all the participants whose involvement is essential in pursuit of this goal.

The importance of Transfusion Traceability

The Blood Safety and Quality Regulations (2005) require that all blood components are traced from donor to recipient to allow individuals to be contacted in future if required.

The RIE Transfusion Team ask all members of staff who are involved in administering blood components to ensure that they fully complete the transfusion traceability documentation at the time of the transfusion, and to return it to the blood bank as soon as possible. Please remember to:

- Complete the blue tag with signature, printed name, date and time
- Complete pink sticker with two signatures, date and time > place patient’s transfusion record

It can be very challenging to confirm traceability of a transfusion in retrospect, so all efforts by staff to complete the traceability documentation at the time of the transfusion – and to return the blue tag to the lab – are of vital importance and greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone for all your help with achieving this.

Frontline Reflections - Open call

Tonic Arts - Edinburgh & Lothians Health Foundation’s vibrant, award-winning arts programme - is commissioning a film project to share the reflections of staff on working through the COVID-19 pandemic. We invite NHS Lothian staff to be involved in this exciting project and tell their stories.

‘Frontline Reflections’ will share NHS Lothian staff stories of how COVID-19 and lockdown has changed us professionally, not only in our workplace, but also our ways of working, and personally in terms of how we relate to and communicate with our colleagues and patients and what this means for the wider NHS Lothian community.

Tonic Arts will be working with PoliFilm Media to collect NHS Lothian staff stories. Participants will be asked to create some of their own content, e.g. on mobile phones, tablets, laptops, and/or take part in some filmed interviews, directed by filmmaker Tomás Sheridan. This will then be pulled together to form a short film that will be shared widely among the NHS Lothian community and across our digital channels.

To participate in this exciting project, please send an email with a short response to the question below to angela.gray@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk by 5pm on Friday 3 July:

Q: Thinking back over the past months, is there an event, moment or thought you remember that gives real insight into your professional world and which people who don't work for the NHS couldn't possibly imagine? Please note: a few sentences is sufficient - 250 words max.

Please also include the following information in your email: name, job/position/role, contact details (email and phone if possible), geographic location in Lothian, gender and age.

Support yourself and your Team

It’s important to remember to sustain your energy to enable and support both yourself and your team. This will allow you to keep prioritising your emotional and psychological wellbeing. For ideas and resources go to https://www.promis.scot, the national wellbeing hub for both health and social care. You can also find information about the wellbeing hub on our Intranet here.
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 –

BME Staff Network Event – discussing the impact of COVID-19 on Black and Ethnic Minority people

You are invited to join our virtual BME Staff Network group meeting taking place tomorrow, Tuesday 16 June, from 4pm to 5.30pm, where we’ll be discussing the impact of COVID-19 on black and ethnic minority people. The speaker will be Dr Gwenetta Curry and the facilitators will be Chris Bruce and Rakiya Suleiman.

To register, please email your full name, your role and your department to rakiya.suleiman@luht.scot.nhs.uk. Once registered, you will be provided with details of how to access the meeting. This will be the second of two virtual BME Staff Network group meetings taking place this week, with the first one held earlier this afternoon.

PPE access for staff visiting your department

All departments and wards need to ensure they facilitate access to PPE for colleagues from other services who are required to visit their areas to carry out their duties. Assistance will ensure all staff are safe when undertaking their roles.

How are you doing? – Children and Coronavirus

How are our children doing? This is the question being explored by Children’s Parliament. Since the start of the lockdown children aged 8 to 14 have been asked to take part in a monthly wellbeing survey called How are you doing? If you are a parent, carer or other family member we would really appreciate your help in encouraging children to get involved and have their say. Children will find the June survey here: bit.ly/Coronavirus_Kids

Validated Statistics as at 1400

A total of 210,959 people in Scotland have been tested through NHS labs and Regional Testing Centres (RTCs) to date (of which 73,851 were first tested through the RTCs). Of these:

- 192,929 were confirmed negative (of which 71,508 were first found negative from an RTC test)
- 18,030 were positive (of which 2,343 were first found positive from an RTC test)
- 2,448 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