Staff Helpline

A helpline for Staff and Volunteers has been set up.
If you have questions about coronavirus (COVID-19), please try the Health Protection Scotland Website in the first instance. If you can't find what you are looking for: call
Call our advice line for Health and Social Care staff and volunteers in Lothian on 0131 537 8530 (ext. 88530). Lines open: Mon to Fri 8am to 6pm.

Please do not call colleagues in RIDU, Public Health or Infection Prevention and Control who are already under extreme pressure. Thank you.

Important Information

New Government Information

The First Minister has announced that schools and nurseries will close indefinitely from Friday. The Education Secretary will provide more detail in Parliament on (19/3). He is expected to outline how the closures will work and any measures that will be available for key workers.

NHS Lothian’s HR team is awaiting workforce-related guidance, from Scottish Government, about the impact of the likely school closures, and also for at-risk groups. As soon as that work is complete, it will be cascaded as quickly as possible.

Scotland’s Chief Medical Officer Catherine Calderwood said the decision to close schools was not taken lightly and that it has been driven by the numbers of positive cases, which now stands at 227 in Scotland.

She said that the move was designed to allow the NHS to keep capacity to help the sickest patients. The CMO said that community surveillance shows sustained transmission in the community, but “lock down” was not yet necessary.

Working, Self-Isolation and Return to work

- If you are well, come to work.

If you develop symptoms:
• If you live alone and you develop a new continuous cough and/or high temperature (37.8 degrees centigrade or higher), regardless of your travel history or contact with confirmed cases you should stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started. You will not be tested.
• If you live with others then all other household members, whether they develop symptoms or not, must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.**
• If after 7 days, you **feel better** and no longer have a high temperature, you can return to work.

**If someone in your household has symptoms:**

• You must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days whether you develop symptoms or not. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.**
• Anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms needs to stay at home for **7 days from when their symptoms appeared**, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period.
• After 7 days, **if the first person to become ill feels better** and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine.
• If anyone in the household develops symptoms late in the 14-day household-isolation period (e.g. on day 13 or day 14) the **isolation period for the household does not need to be extended, but the person with the new symptoms has to stay at home for 7 days.**

You must contact your line manager before returning to work so they can do a risk assessment. Before you return to work you must have had 48 hours without fever. Cough in itself does not prevent you from safely returning to work

**Social Distancing**
People are asked to eliminate unnecessary travel, to work from home where possible (see paragraph below) and to limit social contact, avoiding places where usually people congregate; bars, restaurants, clubs, cinemas and gyms.

**Homeworking**
There is not yet sufficient capacity on the network to allow everyone whose role allows it, to work at home. We aim to get guidance to you in the next day or two explaining how we will prioritise homeworking, based on need and function, while we build more capacity on the network. In the meantime, please do not assume you are permitted to work at home even if you already have VPN access. Please continue to report for work as normal until this guidance is issued to line managers.

**Test Results Positive**
We have received a few queries about who is notified when a sample is positive. Virology inform the following people:
1. The clinician responsible for the patient
2. Health Protection team in Public Health
3. Infection Prevention and Control team in hours
4. HPS by email

**Induction Trak Training**
Induction Trak Training has been compressed to 1.5 hrs. This is now being offered daily.
Staff may need to follow up this compressed induction at a later date and we are exploring the possibility of offering follow-up by remote sessions. Floor walking is to be suspended due to the risk to Ward Staff and Trainers.

**Refresher training**
The Clinical Education Team has set up a range of specific upskill and refresher training to support clinical services.
These sessions are open to all clinical staff - nurses, midwives, AHPs, medics and support staff. The focus is PPE, Infection Prevention & Control, Deteriorating Patient and Respiratory/Airway Management. These are rolling drop-in sessions - most do not require pre-booking. [Click here for information on these sessions](#)

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**Staff Health**

**Health and Protection Advice for Staff**
Guidance continues to evolve in relation to the response to the ongoing COVID – 19 Pandemic.

**Personal Protective Equipment**
It is important that all NHS Lothian staff follow the correct infection control policy and guidance to protect themselves at work whilst ensuring safe and effective patient care. It is essential that clinical staff wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) if required, including the use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) such as face fit tested respirators when needed. Staff who do not provide direct patient care do not require to wear PPE or RPE unless specifically advised to by a member of nursing or medical staff.

1. Standard infection control measures must be followed by all staff for all patients in all areas of patient care. Hand hygiene is vital in reducing the risk to staff from passing on infections, including COVID-19.

2. Staff who do not provide patient care but work in clinical areas – for example domestic staff, porters – do not require to wear any PPE unless directed to by a member of nursing or medical staff -if carrying out a task in a patient isolation room or patient bay where patients have possible or confirmed COVID-19 or other infections.

3. In most cases when delivering clinical care to a patient with possible or confirmed COVID-19 PPE will consist of a fluid resistant surgical mask, disposable apron and gloves (droplet transmission based precautions). There may be some circumstances where eye protection is also indicated e.g. when there is a risk of splash or spray of body fluid to the eyes.

   When carrying out an aerosol generating procedure (AGP) on a patient with possible or confirmed COVID-19 and at all times in intensive care settings where a cohort of possible or confirmed cases has created- clinical staff must wear a face fit tested respirator (FFP3); long sleeved gown; eye protection and disposable gloves.

This guidance is in line with Health Protection Scotland advice and national policy.

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**Validated Statistics as at 1400**
As of 2pm today (18/3), 6091 Scottish tests have concluded. 5864 confirmed negative. 227 positive. Three patients who tested positive have sadly died.

**Important Reminders**

Please refer to these website for the latest guidance and information:

**Health Protection Scotland Covid-19**
This includes guidance documents for clinicians, advice for staff in other settings, etc
https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/#news

**World Health Organisation Covid-19**
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

**UK Government Covid-19 Action Plan**

**Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland**

If you have any communication related questions please email: lothian.communications@nhs.net