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

The Scottish Government’s Test and Protect launches tomorrow

Test and Protect - Scotland’s approach to implementing the ‘test, trace, isolate, support’ strategy - is a public health measure designed to break chains of transmission of COVID-19 in the community. Test and Protect will be rolled out across all health boards from tomorrow (28th May). Under the system, people will need to isolate with their household as soon as they have symptoms and, if they have a positive test result, they will be asked to provide details of all recent close contacts to NHS contact tracers. Those people will be contacted and asked to isolate for 14 days.

Points to keep in mind:

- Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, fever/high temperature - 37.8C or greater - or loss of or change in sense of smell/taste) must self-isolate straight away, and use NHS Inform or call 0800 028 2816 to arrange a test (for anyone aged 5 years or over with symptoms in your household).
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for a minimum of 7 days from the time their symptoms started.
- Self-isolation may be required on more than one occasion.
- Close contacts of someone who has tested positive and identified by an NHS contact tracer will have to self-isolate for 14 days. This could mean colleagues of an employee with symptoms may have been close contacts, and may be asked by the NHS to self-isolate if that employee does test positive.
- NHS contact tracers may require someone to self-isolate even if they have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and have recovered.

The success of Test and Protect as a public health intervention will depend on the continued willingness of everyone in the population to comply with these measures. For more details, see the Scottish Government website.
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

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.

Occupational Health – Process for Management Referrals - Reminder
Whilst responding to the COVID-19 priorities, Occupational Health had to suspend management referrals. They are now in a position to start to slowly reintroduce core business. If managers feel a case would benefit from Occupational Health input, the manager should discuss this with HR Enquiries or the Employment Relations Practitioner supporting the case in the first instance. The Practitioner will then confirm to the manager whether the case meets the current criteria for progression to referral.

Please note that only referrals that come via this route will be progressed, with no direct referrals being accepted via Cohort at this time. Referral for musculoskeletal problems continues to be picked up by the Occupational Health Physiotherapy Service. Please use the self-referral pathway detailed on the Intranet.

Older updates
Older updates such as those listed below are available via the Speed Read issued on Monday 25 May, on the intranet in Covid Base or on the external site here

- NHS Lothian To Play Vital Role in Covid-19 Vaccine Trial
- Infection Prevention and Control Guidance – Update
- Online Resource for Parents and Carers

Validated Statistics as at 1400
A total of 106,984 people in Scotland have been tested for COVID-19 through NHS labs.

- 91,744 confirmed negative
- 15,240 were positive
- 2,304 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