

COVID-19 - Staff Bulletin - Keeping in Touch

2 June 2020

Covid-19 Personal Risk Assessment



All staff should by now have received an individual Covid-19 Risk Assessment form. In working towards a return to a 'new normal' and in order to fulfil our employer responsibilities for the health, safety and welfare of staff, all staff – both employed and sessional – are asked to undertake a personal risk assessment.

The purpose of this exercise is to determine whether there are colleagues who are at higher risk of severe illness from Coronavirus and to establish what measures CBC can put into place to help mitigate these risks and to identify any personal support needs.

Your completed risk assessment should be sent back via email to the relevant Senior Manager and HR Adviser Aileen Wright by **Friday 5th June**.

Completed forms and any accompanying information will be treated in strict confidence accessible only to your senior manager and HR Adviser.

Covid-19 Statistics:



There are **1,003 confirmed cases** in Gateshead, out of a local population of **202,055**

In Gateshead there were **205 coronavirus-related deaths** up to the 15 May. In this area **30% of all deaths involved coronavirus** between 29 Feb and 15 May

Note: Cases only include people who have had a positive test for the virus. Not everyone with the virus will have had a test. Deaths include any death where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. Death data updated weekly, cases updated daily.

Source: UK public health bodies, ONS, NRS and NISRA.
Figures last updated 16:00 GMT, 31 May

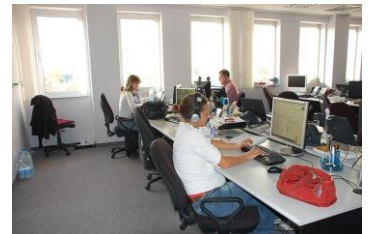
Workplace Assessments

On behalf of CBC, Senior Manager Catherine Armstrong has been tasked with leading and coordinating CBC workplace Covid-19 risk assessments.

Commencing with Queens Park, Catherine and nominated colleagues have undertaken a detailed assessment of the work space and produced an assessment template for roll out across other CBC divisions.

The process has identified all of the potential risks involved in getting staff back to work (when we're given the go-ahead by Government that it's OK to do so) and some practical steps we can take and have already taken, in order to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe working environment.

These simple steps have included identifying maximum room capacities, issuing wipes and hand sanitiser, keeping work stations clear of clutter to allow for easier cleaning, rotas for lunch breaks etc.



It's going to be challenging and feel a little bit odd, but it is in everyone's interests to try and make this work.

Sunshine Galore!

While we're all enjoying some uncharacteristically hot weather at the moment, please take care to avoid over-doing it.

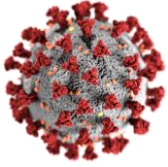


Sun safety tips

Spend time in the shade when the sun is strongest. In the UK, this is between 11am - 3pm March to October. Make sure you:

- ✓ Spend time in the shade between 11 and 3
- ✓ Make sure you never burn
- ✓ Cover up with suitable clothing and sunglasses
- ✓ Take extra care with children
- ✓ Use at least factor 30 sunscreen

The Future of Hot Services



You will recall that Gateshead's Covid-19 hot services were rapidly mobilised in March 2020 in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and configured in line with demand anticipated at that time. In order to deliver this, CBC's Urgent Primary Care contract was varied to provide these hot services on behalf of Gateshead to the end of May 2020.

Daily monitoring of the hot site and hot home visiting activity has indicated a service utilisation rate in the region of 50% or lower, and discussions are now taking place regarding a proportionate reduction in the size and scope of these services.

A recent survey of Gateshead's general practices indicated that practices and PCNs would prefer to maintain borough-wide hot services rather than deliver these at a PCN level. Taking this feedback into account, a paper outlining the options for maintaining hot services over the summer months and at the same time restarting some extended access services will be presented to CCG in the next week or so. The paper will further set out planning arrangements for responding to an anticipated requirement to expand hot services during autumn and winter months.

Chocolate fix!

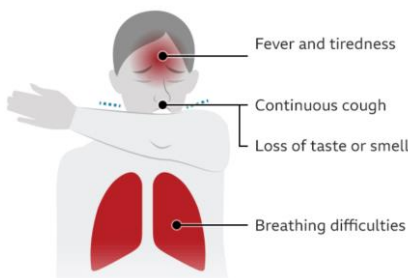


Thank you this week to James Hunter, Managing Director of Lescost Transport Ltd, who has very kindly deposited a stash of chocolate at Blaydon for our hard-working staff.

Lescost Transport Ltd was established and incorporated in May 1979, and to this day is still a family owned and operated independent Company.



Hmmmm? I wonder if they will share



Coronavirus Key Symptoms

Talk before you walk!

Access to Emergency Departments (ED) and Urgent Treatment Centres (UTC)

'Talk before you walk' & 'Talk before you send'

As the Government relaxes lockdown rules, the number of people turning up at Urgent Treatment Centres and Emergency Departments has been increasing; the subsequent overcrowding is causing concern for local Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) services.

Although lockdown has been relaxed, there remains a significant Covid-19 health risk to both patients and UEC staff so unrestricted access to walk-in services and the urgent care model generally across the region is currently being reviewed. This review includes a reconfiguration of CBC's GP services normally delivered from bases in the QE Hospital and Blaydon Primary Care Centre

Throughout lockdown people have adapted to the different channels to get the health services they need such as using NHS 111 online, phoning NHS 111 or their GP. It is important to reinforce this message to ensure people continue using these channels before they attend in person.

Gateshead practices are being asked to:

- Reinforce the **'talk before you walk'** message
- Continue to use 999 for all emergency situations
- Refrain from directing patients to self-present at EDs or UTCs with minor illness
- Consider Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC or ambulatory care) as an alternative disposition to the ED for stable patients, phoning ahead to ensure patients enter appropriate clinical pathways without delay; **'talk before you send'**.
- Advise patients to use NHS 111 online or phone NHS111 when practices are unavailable.



Fabulous facts

On this day in 1953 Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in Westminster Abbey. Her Majesty was the thirty-ninth Sovereign to be crowned at Westminster Abbey.

