

# NHS Lothian COVID-19 SPEED READ



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

All Speed Reads are available on intranet in [COVID-19 Base](#) or on the [external site here](#)

**ISSUED: 11 JANUARY 2021**

## Important Information

### **Changes to COVID-19 vaccination programme – updated FAQs**

We have updated our Frequently Asked Questions regarding changes to our COVID-19 vaccination programme. These updated FAQs include advice issued directly from the Chief Medical Officer and staff are advised to review the page. A link to FAQs can be found [here](#).

### **New SIGN guidance issued: Managing the long-term effects of COVID-19**

New guidance has been issued by SIGN regarding the management of the long-term effects of COVID-19. This guideline has been developed collaboratively by SIGN, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). SIGN, NICE, and the RCGP are developing the guideline using a 'living' approach, which means that targeted areas of the guideline will be continuously reviewed and updated in response to emerging evidence.

This guideline covers the care of people who have signs and symptoms that develop during or after an infection that is consistent with COVID-19, which continue for more than four weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis. These recommendations will be of interest to general practitioners (GPs) and members of the primary care team, healthcare professionals in specialist secondary care services, occupational therapists, rehabilitation medicine staff, and social workers. A link to the SIGN guidelines can be found [here](#).

### **SIREN Study Invitation – Are you interested in helping us learn more about Covid-19?**

We are looking to recruit over 1600 frontline secondary care staff in NHS Lothian as part of a UK wide study for one year.

The SIREN (Sarscov2 Immunity & Reinfection EvaluationN) study involves a blood sample (to test for antibodies), a nasal/throat swab (to test for current infection) and an online symptom review questionnaire fortnightly (will be sent to your mobile/e-mail address). Swab sampling would be every two weeks, blood samples generally every 4 weeks. Your participation would be for one year. We will also gather data on whether participants have had a Covid-19 Vaccine.

Ongoing blood samples can be done at your place of work (by a competent colleague) or by a return visit to our RIE Clinic (2-4 weekly). You will be taught to self-swab and can drop off bloods/swabs as per your usual clinical samples route at RIE/WGH/SJH labs. NOTE the study team will supply TRAK labels and swabs as colleagues should not be looking at each other on TRAK.

You can read more information about the study at: <https://snapsurvey.phe.org.uk/siren/participant-information-leaflet.pdf>

If you would like to take part please contact the team at: [siren@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:siren@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

**If you have information directly related to COVID that you would like to be considered for the Speed Read please send it to [Lothian.Communications@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Lothian.Communications@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)  
Please ensure that your service is content with information before sending.**

## 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 website, under the 'Staff' section](#).**

## 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@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:lothian.communications@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)