

Core brief

Friday 16 August 2019

Introduction

This issue of Core Brief details information on the Staff Flu Vaccination Programme and a Brexit update.

Staff flu vaccination programme

Each year the northern hemisphere looks to Australia to get a sense of how our coming flu season might develop.

Historically flu like illnesses in Australia tended to increase during the months of July to September with a peak in August, however this year from the initial data it would appear that the flu like illnesses and confirmed flu cases seemed to have started and peaked much earlier than previous years.

The majority (82 per cent) of confirmed influenza cases reported in Australia were influenza A by 28 July 2019. The majority of the Flu A that were typed were of the H3N2 type, a type known to cause more severe illness among the older age group leading to increasing pressures in the secondary care system.

Dr Syed Ahmed, Immunisation Coordinator/Consultant Public Health Medicine, said: "It would be prudent for Scotland to be prepared for a worst case scenario including maximising protection among the eligible groups against influenza through vaccination, including healthcare workers.

Healthcare workers can act as a source of infection to vulnerable patients and other close contacts even before respiratory symptoms begin so the best way for staff to protect themselves, patients, family and friends from the effects of flu is to be vaccinated.

This year's programme of staff flu vaccination mass clinics begins on 1 October, for more information, visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/staffflu

One of the easiest ways for staff to be vaccinated is through peer vaccination in your workplace. Information on peer vaccination is available at: www.nhsggc.org.uk/staffflu

You will be asked to register online before attending for vaccination from the beginning of September.

Staff Brexit communications

NHSGGC continues to make preparations to plan for the UK leaving the EU. The Brexit Readiness Steering Group is meeting fortnightly with key individuals working alongside national groups and the

Scottish Government in detailed planning around many aspects of an EU exit which might have an immediate and direct effect on the health service.

We greatly value the contribution of all our staff and recognise that many have a number of professional and personal concerns and questions and are committed to ensuring our EU staff and their families have access to up-to-date information, support and advice during this period of uncertainty.

Latest from the Home Office – EU Settlement Scheme

Whether or not the UK and EU reach a deal before 31 October 2019, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK will have until at least 31 December 2020 to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

If you have yet to apply or know anyone who has yet to do so, please refer to the support services listed below:

- [EU Settlement Scheme guidance pages](#)
- [ID document scanner locations](#)
- [Sign up to receive email updates from the Home Office](#)

Individuals that have made an application, or are attempting to do so, can get help and support by contacting the Settlement Resolution Centre on 0300 123 7379.

If you have any other general questions or concerns please email NHSGGC.Brexit@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

For more information, visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/brexitinfo or the Scottish Government website: www.mygov.scot/euexit or the UK Government website: www.gov.uk/brexit.

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check