

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive

In view of the developing international situation with Covid-19, I wanted to provide you with an update on the measures we are taking to plan and prepare for the impact of Covid-19 on our services.

The Scottish Government planning is now fully underway and they have been in regular communication with Boards to ensure internal arrangements are also in place. As part of this, I participated this morning in a national meeting to provide oversight of the NHSScotland response.

Within NHSGGC, we have been preparing since the emergence of Covid-19. Our flu pandemic plan response structure has been implemented to coordinate our response to Covid-19 and an Incident Management Team (IMT) has been in place since 6th February.

The IMT includes representation from our Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs), Primary Care, Acute Services and the Infection Prevention and Control Team and is chaired by Public Health colleagues.

A number of sub-committees have also been established to finalise detailed resilience arrangements, including an overarching Acute and specific sectoral groups, a communications sub-group and local HSCP groups.

Current NHSGGC pandemic and business continuity plans are being reviewed in response to Covid-19 to make sure they remain fit for purpose. An exercise is planned for Friday 13th March to ensure they address all emerging issues.

Plans are being developed to flex capacity and prepare for further escalation by the Scottish Government that may require us to reduce our elective programme as part the national response. In addition, plans are being established to increase critical care capacity on our major sites.

As part of our resilience planning, the Director of eHealth is also pursuing all opportunities to maximise the use of digital technologies, such as accelerating the implementation of Attend Anywhere secure video-based access for patients.

The situation with Covid-19 is fast moving as can be seen with the outbreaks that are being reported in the UK, Europe and beyond.

Colleagues have already responded well to this emerging situation and I know are working incredibly hard to prepare for the potential impact. I want to thank all staff for their efforts.

Through the communications sub-group, dedicated online resources will be created with updated information for staff. Information on the situation in Scotland is also being published by Scottish Government daily, at 14:00 at: www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-scottish-test-numbers.

You can also find information on how to avoid catching these types of infections at [NHS Inform](#).

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