

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive  
(13 November 2020, 3:05pm)**

As you are all very aware, we are still in the midst of the pandemic. Our services continue to see higher numbers of COVID patients that at the height of the first wave and the number of cases in NHSGGC are still higher than we would like. While the rate of reported cases has begun to stabilise, there remains much to do to get numbers down.

This week's announcement of the development of a vaccine shown to be highly effective in stopping the coronavirus is, therefore, very welcome news for everyone, although there are still some hurdles to overcome. The planning for the COVID vaccination programme, building on the lessons from the recent adult flu vaccination programme, is now underway.

In the meantime, it is important that we all continue to do everything we can to protect ourselves to contain the virus in our communities. I am very conscious that everyone, including our staff, may be starting to get COVID guideline fatigue. We miss our families and friends. We want to socialise again and be able to start to get back to normal. However, in order to do this, we need to continue help each other to ensure that we are physically distancing; that we wear an appropriate face covering; that we take advice and show that as members of the NHS community, we are leading the way in complying with the rules.

I would also like to thank staff who have taken the opportunity to be vaccinated against flu. Currently, 58 percent of our staff have either received or have registered to receive their vaccination. This is a really important step in helping to protect yourself from the flu virus and stop the spread among your loved ones, colleagues and patients. As we move into winter, there will be added seasonal pressures on our services, so any action that we can take to restrict flu transmission and keep ourselves well will be vital. I would encourage those who have not yet registered to be vaccinated to do so.

As you will be aware, late last month, the Scottish Government announced some changes to the way members of the public access emergency care. These changes mean that people with non-life threatening conditions who would usually visit ED, will be asked to call NHS 24 first, no matter the time of day or night. People can also continue to call their GP practice during office hours or access help online from NHS Inform, but the greater use of NHS 24 should help to reduce the number of people presenting at our hospital EDs for more minor injuries or ailments. A pilot is currently underway at NHS Ayrshire and Arran as I will keep you updated on progress with this.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your work in these challenging times. I, and the senior management team, absolutely appreciate the hard work and dedication demonstrated by you all in continuing to provide high quality services to our patients. Thank you.

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