

# Core brief

## Daily update

(30 December 2020, 6.15pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Update on COVID vaccination programme

### **DAILY REMINDER: Don't Spread the Virus at Work or Home**

**Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze. Use a tissue or sneeze into your elbow to keep your hands as clean as possible. Wash your hands carefully after you sneeze or cough, regardless.**

**Message from Dr Linda de Caestecker, Director of Public Health and Anne Harkness, Service Director**

### **Update on COVID vaccination programme**

Today's announcement of MHRA authorisation of the use of the AstraZeneca (Oxford) vaccine is very welcome news. For both this vaccine and the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, data provided to MHRA demonstrate that while efficacy is optimised when a second dose is administered, both offer considerable protection after a single dose, at least in the short term. For both vaccines the second dose completes the course and is likely to be important for longer term protection.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has subsequently recommended that as many people on the JCVI priority list as possible should be offered a first vaccine dose as the initial priority before administering second doses. They have advised that the second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine may be given between 3 to 12 weeks following the first dose, and that the second dose of the AstraZeneca (Oxford) vaccine may be given between 4 to 12 weeks following the first dose. The clinical risk priority order for deployment of the vaccines remains unchanged and applies to both vaccines. Both are very effective vaccines.

The four UK Chief Medical Officers agree with the JCVI that at this stage of the pandemic [prioritising the first doses of vaccine for as many people as possible on the priority list](#) will protect the greatest number of at risk people overall in the shortest possible time and will have the greatest impact on reducing mortality, severe disease and hospitalisations and in protecting the NHS and equivalent health services.

Operationally this will mean that second doses of both vaccines will be administered towards the end of the recommended vaccine dosing schedule of 12 weeks. This will maximise the number of people getting vaccine and therefore receiving protection in the next 12 weeks.

As such, the COVID vaccination programme within NHSGGC will be adjusted as follows:

- Those staff who have had their first dose since 8 December and who are currently scheduled to receive a second dose will not be given this dose now but will be appointed within 12 weeks. If you have an appointment for your second dose on or after 5 January then this will be cancelled and you will be contacted in February to make another appointment. Please do not attend for your second appointment in January.

- Arrangements are being finalised to offer appointments to more staff in the priority groups as set out in the [CMO letter of 24 December](#) and those staff will be vaccinated from next week. A further core brief will be issued tomorrow with the arrangements.

We continue to ask for patience while we complete this major logistics exercise. We would like to reassure you that we will continue to vaccinate at pace and at scale in line with the national guidance as quickly as supplies are received. We are aware that there seem to be rumours or misinformation circulating about staff inappropriately receiving the vaccine before frontline staff. While there will be individual examples of this due to other risk factors or instances at the start of the process when the booking link was shared when it should not have been, we want to assure you that we are sticking to the priority groups in the CMO letter.

If you have any questions about the COVID vaccination programme, then please speak to your line manager or contact us at [staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: [www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19). If you have any questions about the current situation please check the [FAQs](#) first. If you have any further questions, please email: [staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).

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