COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (22-1-2021)

Firstly I must apologise; there appears to have been ‘technical issues’ this week in relation to the distribution of one of the Board’s Core Brief updates (Tuesday 19 January) and with the link some of you may have been sent to book your second vaccination.

I understand that both of these situations were rectified very quickly but nonetheless I appreciate it does cause a degree of frustration at the time.

A couple of further things to update on:

- **Covid Vaccination Programme**

  Appointments still remain available at the Louisa Jordan on Saturday 23 Jan and for week beginning 25 Jan. An additional clinic has also been arranged there on Sunday 24 Jan, links to all are detailed below, you may need to cut and paste them into your browser.

  Saturday 23 January - https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/cvvaxxnhsggc01Jan2021

  Sunday 24 January - https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/24jancovidclinic


  Can I remind you that at this stage the appointments should only be for those members of the team who are currently eligible. I would also ask that if you book an appointment time please make sure that you attend, as DNAs are disappointing and can potentially lead to waste in relation to the vaccine.

- **Second dose of the vaccine**

  The Board has now confirmed that arrangements are being put in place to allow people to book an appointment for their second dose of the vaccine. People will be contacted in the order in which they received their first vaccine.
Expressions of Interest – Covid 19 Vaccination Programme

To date the Board has had a very good response from all contractor groups allowing them to build the numbers in the vaccination bank and prepare for increased clinics from 1 February 2021.

Many thanks to the numbers of you that have already undertaken the training and registered with the staff bank to assist with the Covid vaccination programme, so far approx. 100 dentists have registered and completed training with a further 182 currently being processed, as always you have rallied to the call.

Moving forward, in order to ensure there is a workforce available to deliver the increased number of clinics, training and recruitment programmes are ongoing and ramping up.

If you are interested in finding out more or registering please go to the website at - https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/working-with-us/hr-connect/recruitment-service/covid-vaccinator-recruitment#.

The website has been updated and now includes helpful information and explains the training required. The process is now streamlined, which I appreciate was an issue highlighted to me previously.

If you have already applied please be assured that your details are being processed and will be in touch as soon as possible.

If you have any questions please email: covid.recruitment@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

As mentioned previously there is also a payment available for PDS/HDS staff who wish to become involved with the vaccination programme. We would however ask, at this stage, that you only book shifts at weekends or evenings rather than daytime during the week, given that we are continuing to remobilise our own services.

Community Pharmacies – Temporary Change to Opening Hours

We have been advised by our Pharmacy colleagues that it has been necessary to re instigate the reduced model hours that was in place back in March – May 2020 for Community Pharmacies.

Pharmacies will provide service from 10am until 5pm with the option of an hour’s lunch break.

This change will commence from Monday 25th January 2021 and will be reviewed in 4 weeks’ time.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another
Future Funding of Primary Care PPE

Those of you in GDS will be now have received a letter from Paul Cushley, NSS advising of the decision to continue funding PPE under the current arrangements until the end of June 2021.

To make best use of our PPE resource, if you find that you have an excess stock of visors or moving forward wish to reduce the amount of visors allocated to your practice please email - oral.health3@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Face Fitting Testing

Many of you have been face fitted to type 1863 FFP3 mask and we have been informed by the Board that supply of this mask will only be available until 1st April 2021. In order to ensure you have a FFP3 mask available to it is necessary to re face fit test to an alternative mask in advance of this date.

We will be issuing a separate email with a link to a webropol for you to book onto a face fitting session.

It has been clarified with Police Scotland that this would constitute essential travel and as such permissible during the current restrictions.

Wellbeing and Support for Dental Teams

This has been and will continue to be a difficult time for us all. I just wanted to bring to your attention a new Well Being Resource for the whole dental team which can be downloaded from the following website https://www.supportfordentalteams.org/

Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry

Stay Safe and Look After One Another