

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(9 April 2021, 2.25pm)**

This week has brought with it some good news. On Wednesday, we started vaccinating members of the public with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This is the third vaccine which is available to us and it will be used along with those from Oxford/AstraZenica and Pfizer. I realise there have been some concerns raised about the use of the Oxford/AstraZenica vaccine, but I would like to reassure those of you who may have loved ones due to receive it, that it is safe and we will be administering it in line with the latest government guidance.

I'm pleased to note that in recent weeks we have also seen a drop in the number of people that we are treating for COVID. We have seen less than 70 COVID-19 patients admitted into our care to receive treatment within the Board over the last 28 days. While we continue to be concerned about those patients who remain in a serious condition, I am also encouraged that we are seeing fewer admissions and more patients being successfully discharged. I would like to pay tribute to our teams who continue to provide outstanding care for all of our patients. I very much hope that, with the continued roll-out of the vaccination programme, and, as people continue to follow the guidance about physical distancing, hand hygiene and face coverings, we will continue to make good progress. However, ensuring we are not complacent also continues to be key.

Another way in which we can help to stop the spread of COVID-19 is through the use of lateral flow testing. I am really pleased that we have now rolled out test kits to our non-patient facing staff who are currently working from our sites. This includes all administrative, managerial, support services, technical and professional staff who have not been included in previous cohorts.

The intention is that, in the coming weeks, we will also begin to include our staff who have been shielding and will soon be returning to work. For our staff who will continue to work from home until June 2021, in line with Scottish Government guidance, there will be the opportunity to offer kits to you at a later stage and in advance of your planned return to site. I would like to thank all staff who have already taken up lateral flow testing and encourage those who are now eligible to do so.

I would like to end with a lovely story that I heard this week about a visitor to one of our vaccination centres, Ryan Malloy. Ryan has learning disabilities, complex medical needs and has been shielding for more than a year, so his family were naturally very concerned about bringing him to be vaccinated. However, his Mum, Pauline contacted us to say a huge thank you to the Adult Learning Disability Team and in particular Theresa McCulloch who supported the family to make all of the necessary arrangements for Ryan. She went on to thank the team of staff at the SEC campus for treating Ryan like a "rock star". Pauline said that Ryan was initially terrified on the day, but everyone he came into contact with gave him such fantastic care he left feeling like a celebrity. Such a wonderful testament to our staff, which shows both compassion for the family and excellent team work. My thanks go to everyone involved.

On that note, let's keep up the great work. Together we really can make a huge difference to the lives of our patients and their families.

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