

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde **Core brief**

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(10 December 2021, 4.25pm)**

As you may have heard, Public Health Scotland and the First Minister are both strongly urging everyone to consider postponing work related Christmas get-togethers until the New Year. I realise this is a big request, particularly for NHS staff who have been working so hard throughout the year, but I would ask that you please heed this advice. We have already started to see examples in the media of whole teams of employees from other Health Boards having to self-isolate due to a COVID case being identified following a staff event, so while I realise the message is not particularly palatable, it may prove essential in our continued fight against COVID-19.

Similarly, from tomorrow, the self-isolation rules will change. This means that all household contacts of any confirmed COVID case will need to isolate for 10 days regardless of their vaccination status and whether they initially have a negative PCR test. While the advice does not apply to work contacts at this time, it is important that we understand that there will be implications for our teams as a result. Given the huge levels of commitment shown by all staff throughout the pandemic, I would like to ask that you please continue to take the steps that you can to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

One step we can all take is to ensure that we are fully vaccinated and this week, we commemorated a year of COVID vaccinations, with the anniversary of the first vaccination on the 8th of December. Since last year, NHSGGC vaccinators have administered over 2.1 million doses of vaccine, to hundreds of thousands of people across our local communities. I am immensely grateful to everyone who has played a part in the programme to date, from vaccinators to our pharmacy team, from the support staff and contractors to our Local Authority colleagues, who have provided front of house staff at our main community clinics.

This really has been an enormous team effort to get so many people to roll up their sleeves and I am thankful to everyone who has come forward to be vaccinated so far. However, the programme still has a way to go and with the new Omicron variant becoming more prominent across Scotland and beyond, please take these appropriate actions to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe. Please ensure you are taking regular lateral flow testing and remember to follow the appropriate guidance when you are out in your local community in the coming days and weeks.

There are other ways in which we can support members of our local communities and remind them that COVID-19 remains a real threat. To that end, we invited STV into the RAH today to film a 'then and now' news story following their visit earlier this year. The main purpose of this is to show what it is like for staff on the frontline who continue to deal with the pressures of the pandemic and to build continued awareness of how people can access the right care in the right place, so that we can further reduce pressures on our ED teams. I would like to thank all of the staff taking part today and I will look forward to watching the news item when it is broadcast.

As staff will have seen, the safety of the QEUH/RHC and care provided by our staff has been raised in the chamber of the Scottish Parliament again this week. I would like to thank our clinicians and clinical leaders

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who joined our Chairman and me for a virtual meeting with Anas Sarwar MSP and Jackie Baillie MSP earlier this week to provide reassurances to them about the safety of our hospital, our rigorous infection control measures, the commitment of our staff and the impact the continued criticism was having on staff and patient wellbeing. I want to reaffirm my commitment to every member of staff that we will continue to take all necessary steps to reassure patients, their loved ones and the wider public.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the new £21.7m Clydebank Health and Care Centre has now been handed over to us for commissioning, ahead of its opening in early February.

Standing in the historic location of Queen's Quay, the Health and Care Centre will transform healthcare for the local community, offering a bright, state-of the-art building, which will house six GP surgeries, a specialist Speech and Language Therapy service, Antenatal Clinics, Community Paediatric Clinics, Podiatry and Sexual Health services. My thanks go to everyone who has been involved in the project to date and I look forward to visiting the site when it officially opens to our patients.

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