

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(22 April 2022, 12.45pm)**

Over the past seven days, we have continued to see a steady decline in the number of patients in our hospitals, residents in our care homes and people in our local communities with COVID. This is very encouraging news, particularly as we are also seeing a rise in the number of staff returning after a period of COVID related absence, with around 200 colleagues returning to work in the past week alone. While I do not wish to be complacent, as we have been in this situation a number of times before, I am hopeful that despite schools going back after the Easter break and the government's COVID guidelines being further relaxed, this will not impact heavily on our services.

However, while the national guidance concerning the wearing of face coverings in social settings was removed this week, the Scottish Government's Chief Nursing Officer has issued a letter to all Health Boards, which strongly recommends that staff to continue to wear Type IIR fluid resistant surgical masks (FRSMs) at all times while on shift in clinical areas or while at work in non-clinical areas unless you are seated at your desk or in a self-contained office.

As such, NHSGGC has taken the decision that all staff must wear a FRSM, upon entering a hospital building or clinical setting and should continue to wear one throughout your shift, except during break times, when you can maintain two metres physical distance and are in a non-clinical area. For staff who work solely in non-clinical buildings and who do not enter buildings where patient care is provided, you should wear your own face covering when not seated at your desk or in a self-contained office. However, if staff members need to visit a building where patient care is provided, you must change your face covering to a FRSM.

These recommendations have also been extended to patients and visitors in clinical and communal settings, who are strongly recommended to continue to wear an FRSM unless they are exempt or it could compromise clinical care, for example, while in labour. This is something we will continue to support across all of our sites in order to preserve the safety of our staff and patients wherever possible.

I would like to share some feedback from a patient receiving treatment for their Rheumatoid Arthritis from the Rheumatology team at the RAH, in particular, Sister Donna Hood. Our patient said; "I have had RA for over 10 years and over the last year my condition has got really bad and it is currently affecting my quality of life. She has made me realise that I have learned to live with this condition over the years but that it needs managed better. At a time where my pain and mental health is at a low Donna has gone over and above what is expected of her, she has shown true empathy and as much as it is frustrating that this treatment is yet to work I totally trust she (and Dr Laws) has my best interest at heart. I understand the hospitals just now are at their peaks and are under pressure with staff absences, etc. but she provides great advice and great support always where and when she can and I think it is crucial at these challenging times within the NHS to give credit where it is due. It is people like Donna that make the NHS great." I would like to add my thanks to Donna and the rest of the team for the work you do to care for our patients and help to provide a positive support to them when they need it most. Please keep up your great work.

I would like to share you some great news about our colleagues who have been presented with awards this week. Dr Emilia Crighton, our Interim Director of Public Health has been awarded the UK Faculty of Public

Health Service Award as formal recognition for her work in Public Health, the volunteering time she has undertaken and her Faculty role of Board member and representative of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow over the past six years. This award highlights Emilia's contribution and dedication to protecting and improving the public's health and I am delighted that she has been recognised at a UK level. Congratulations, Emilia.

I am also very pleased to inform you that our HR and Recruitment Services team, alongside colleagues from across the country, who have worked tirelessly over the past two years to attract and appoint many thousands of new staff, including rapid start-up services, such as Test and Protect, have been formally recognised at the prestigious S1 Jobs Recruitment Awards. Our Human Resources and Organisational Development Director, Anne MacPherson picked up the award on behalf of the NHS Scotland HR and Recruitment Teams, who were described at the event as hard working, talented, making the difference and putting patients first. I could not agree more with this sentiment and would like to add my congratulations to the team on their much deserved award. Thank you all for your ongoing hard work and support.

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