

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(13 August 2021, 10am)**

We continue to see particularly challenging conditions in our EDs across NHSGGC, which I appreciate is causing increased pressure for our staff. I want to reassure you that these issues are very much at the forefront of my mind and others on the senior team and we are doing all we can to try and encourage appropriate use of our hospital services at this time.

This was the driving factor behind inviting the BBC into the QEUH earlier this week, so we could show the public the reason why this is such an important issue, with NHS24 or a local GP being the first port of call for less serious treatment and support.

It is a fine balance for us to make as we need to ensure we do not deter those in greatest need from attendance. I would like to thank all of the staff at the QEUH who took the time to take part in interviews and filming. I am hopeful that your contribution will encourage people to consider their treatment options before automatically opting to visit our Emergency Departments.

I was very pleased to see that on Monday our vaccination clinics started offering the Pfizer COVID vaccine to people aged 16 and 17 years old across NHSGGC. I would like to thank the team at the Barrhead clinic in East Renfrewshire for supporting the visit from the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP, who met with our vaccinators and members of the public who had attended to receive their vaccination. The wider vaccination programme continues at pace, with well over 1.5 million doses of vaccine now administered. However, we are now looking ahead, with planning underway for our winter schedule. This will potentially include COVID vaccine boosters as well as flu vaccinations, with the latter being made available to many more people this year, including all those over 50 years of age. This will provide our vaccination teams with a significant challenge in the coming months, but I am encouraged by the progress made to date with COVID vaccinations, which will stand us in very good stead for the winter months. To our vaccination teams; thank you once again for your hard work to date.

Monday also brought with it changes to the Scottish Government guidance concerning COVID-19 restrictions. As you will be aware, while general rules regarding physical distancing and limits on public gatherings have been removed, inside healthcare settings the two metre distancing requirement remains, so I would ask all staff to continue to observe this wherever possible.

The changes to the Government's guidance also note that face coverings still need to be worn, but self-isolation requirements for people who come into contact with someone with COVID-19 have changed. This makes it all the more important that our staff continue to carry out regular lateral flow testing. However, equally important is that you register your test results.

Since we rolled out testing for staff, the cumulative number of tests undertaken between December 2020 and the 5th of August 2021 is in excess of 400,000. This is great progress, but we know that this isn't the complete picture, so it is imperative that we continue to build on this. Please continue taking your tests and

for those who are not doing so currently, I would encourage you to do so and ensure your results are registered.

Again, thank you all for your hard work and dedication in these challenging times.

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