

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(9 July 2021, 3.10pm)

As you will be aware, a number of Health Boards have announced this week that they are facing significant challenges regarding increasing emergency demand, including increasing numbers of COVID inpatients. This coupled with the level of staff absence being relatively high due to COVID associated issues and planned annual leave.

While we too face similar challenges, I want to reassure you that we are not, at this point, in the same position as some other Boards. However, we will continue to keep our position under close review to ensure that we can respond effectively and swiftly should we need to. I fully appreciate the immense challenge the current situation brings to our staff and I want to thank you all for continuing to focus so diligently on your patients. Your commitment is hugely appreciated.

Our vaccination programme continues to act as a strong intervention against COVID-19, and this week, we have seen an increase in the number of drop-in vaccination clinics open to members of the public across NHSGGC. We are now very much open for business to everyone aged 18 years old and over and we hope that we will continue to see high numbers of people coming forward to be vaccinated. To date our teams have now administered almost 1.4million doses of vaccine, meaning almost 575,000 people now fully vaccinated. This really is excellent progress and I would like to thank our vaccination teams for their continued hard work.

However, we also continue to see the number of people aged between 18-24 years old with COVID rising. This was expected due to the easing of restrictions, but given this, it is really important that our staff continue to follow Scottish Government guidance concerning social distancing both when at work as well as socially, so that we can all do our bit to keep ourselves, our colleagues and our patients safe.

In the coming weeks we will, once again, be taking part in the national iMatter staff survey. It is open to everyone and is designed to evaluate the experience of our staff in relation to working practices and organisational culture within NHSGGC. Your responses help us to assess what works well and creates a positive work environment as well as give consideration to those areas where we need to focus and improve. All staff members will be invited to take part and I would like to encourage everyone to do so when the opportunity arises. I am very keen to hear your views.

Last weekend marked the sixth anniversary of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital's official opening. The hospital and wider campus was a welcome development within Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The success of the QEUH and the RHC is, in the main, down to the exceptional patient care and support provided by our staff. To all of you who have worked at the QEUH and RHC over the past six years, thank you for playing a part in building a great team.

Finally, as you will have seen, earlier this week, Her Majesty The Queen awarded the George Cross to the UK National Health Services. This is in recognition of 73 years of dedicated service and in particular the way in which staff have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a huge honour and very well deserved by each and every one of our staff. Your commitment throughout this period has been exemplar and I thank you all for everything you have achieved despite operating in the most challenging of circumstances. I am so proud of the care and compassion you have shown your patients and your colleagues. While we have learned a lot, I feel we have also become a closer NHSGGC community as a result.

Thank you.

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