

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**  
**(5 March 2021, 3.15pm)**

We have come to the end of another incredibly busy week. I have been pleased to hear the Scottish Government's plans for the next stage of easing lockdown restrictions, which I know will come as welcome news for everyone.

For those care homes that were able to open their doors to the loved ones of residents this week, I'm sure it was an emotional step forward. I realise that the return of visiting brings with it additional challenges for care home staff, and those that are supporting them, but for those individuals who have been unable to have visitors for many, many months, it will have been a huge relief and a wonderful experience to feel that little bit more connected with family and friends once again. To our staff who helped to facilitate the return of visiting, thank you for all of the additional efforts that you made.

Despite this positive step, I remain acutely aware of the potential implications that the easing of restrictions may have. Specifically, if people begin to drop their guard and become more relaxed about following guidance. I would encourage all of our staff to lead from the front and ensure that we are consistently wearing appropriate face coverings, maintaining physical distancing and hand hygiene practices and please remember that if you experience symptoms, please self-isolate and book a test.

We will, very soon, reach the one year anniversary of the first lockdown in Scotland. Thinking back over the past 12 months, we have faced exceptional challenges and have all had to dig deep to overcome them.

There is light at the end of the tunnel, not least with the COVID vaccine. Despite the slowing of supply in recent weeks, our vaccination programme continues to make steady progress, with over 367,000 doses administered across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. This is a significant achievement and I am very proud of the team for their resolve in continuing to move the programme forward.

I would like to conclude by taking this opportunity to mark NHS overseas workers day. This commemoration day, which takes place today, is a recognition of the contribution people who have migrated to the UK have made throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful to this community, who as part of our wider workforce have focussed on the common goal of fighting COVID. Together, as a NHSGGC team, we have made a hugely positive impact and I thank each and every one of you for your immense efforts.

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