

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	Paper No. 23/02
Meeting:	NHSGGC Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	28th February 2023
Title:	Covid-19 Update
Sponsoring Director/Manager	Dr Emilia Crighton, Interim Director of Public Health
Report Author:	Neil Irwin, Service Lead

1. Purpose

The purpose of the attached paper is to: provide an update to the Board on the overall position in respect of the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC) response to managing COVID-19.

2. Executive Summary

The paper can be summarised as follows:

- Epidemiology Update
- Vaccinations update

3. Recommendations

The NHS Board is asked to consider the following recommendations:

- No recommendations

4. Response Required

This paper is presented for awareness

5. Impact Assessment

The impact of this paper on NHSGGC's corporate aims, approach to equality and diversity and environmental impact are assessed as follows:

- Better Health Positive impact
- Better Care Positive impact
- Better Value Neutral impact
- Better Workplace Neutral impact
- Equality & Diversity Neutral impact
- Environment Neutral impact

6. Engagement & Communications

The issues addressed in this paper were subject to the following engagement and communications activity:

Not Applicable

7. Governance Route

This paper has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development:

This paper has been prepared for the board for awareness

8. Date Prepared & Issued

Prepared 17.02.2023

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1. Introduction

This paper is to provide an update to the Board on the overall position in respect of the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC) response to managing COVID-19. This paper is presented for awareness.

2. Epidemiology

COVID-19 in the community

The ONS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey provides the estimated percentage of the Scottish community population that had COVID-19, based on a representative sample. In Scotland, the peak in community prevalence for the most recent wave occurred in the week ending 31 December 2022, when an estimated 4.2% of the population (around 1 in 25 people) were positive for COVID-19. Over the course of January, the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 decreased, to a low of 1.4% in the week ending 24 January. The decline then stagnated, and the most recently published data, for the week ending 7 February 2023 shows a small increase in the percentage of the population testing positive for COVID-19, to 1.8% (around 1 in 55 people).

Care homes continued to see COVID-19 cases amongst staff, reflective of ongoing community transmission. Outbreaks with symptomatic resident cases (largely mild symptoms), continued to occur in a small number of care homes (10 across NHSGGC as of 16 February 2023).

Inpatients with recently confirmed COVID-19

In the latest wave, the daily number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospitals in NHS GGC peaked on 4 January 2023, at 506 inpatients, followed by a steep decline to 201 COVID-19 inpatients by the 31 January. Since then, the daily number of COVID-19 inpatients continued to decline, but the rate of decline was slower, with more day to day fluctuation. As of 16 February 2023, there were 173 inpatients with recently confirmed COVID-19 in hospital in NHS GGC.

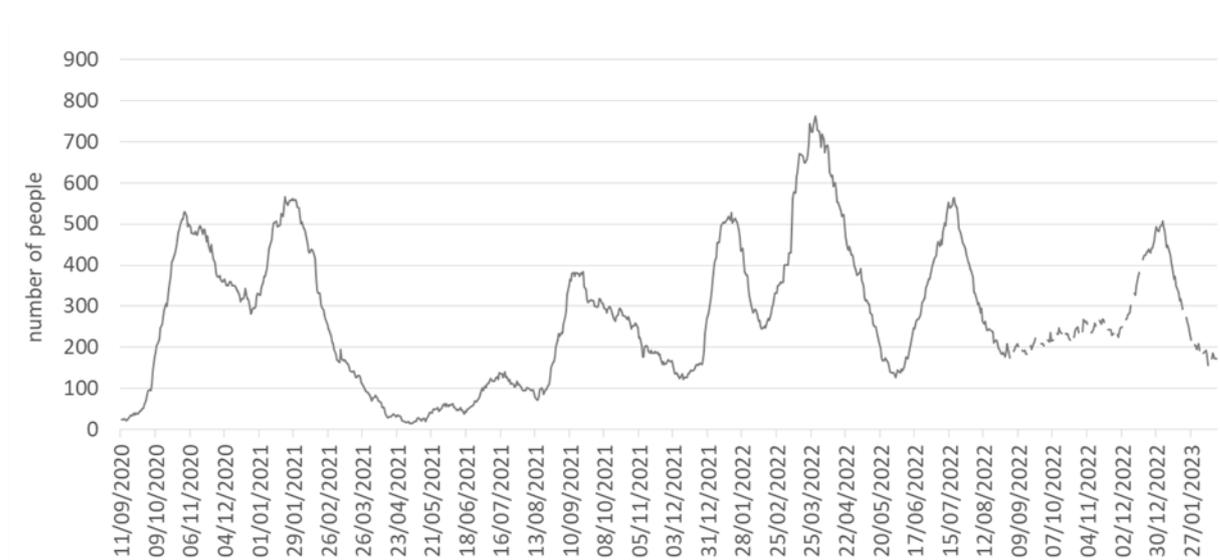


Figure 1: Daily number of people in hospital with recently confirmed COVID-19 (<28 days since positive test) in NHS GGC (reporting restricted to weekdays since the beginning of September 2020)

SARS-CoV-2 variants in Scotland

In October 2022, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) designated Omicron BQ.1, a sub lineage of Omicron BA.5, a variant in its own right (V22 OCT 01). This was based on an observed growth advantage over Omicron BA.5. Omicron BQ.1 (V22 OCT 01) is now the predominant variant in Scotland.

3. Covid-19 Vaccinations

Autumn Winter 2022/23

The programme continues to offer the Autumn Winter booster to all those who are eligible and will continue to do so until the end of March 2023. Clinics will continue to operate across the city with both booked appointments and drop in clinics being offered.

Attendance varies across the age cohorts for those with booked appointments within the vaccination clinics.

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Uptake of those eligible is shown below

		GGC	GGC	GGC	Scotland
		Number eligible	Number vaccinated	% uptake	% uptake
Over 65	COVID	201034	178486	88.8%	90.5%
Over 65	FLU	211214	176787	83.7%	85.3%
50 to 64	COVID	227645	140318	61.6%	65.7%
50 to 64	FLU	259204	131092	50.6%	55.2%
5 to 64 at risk	COVID	154086	91768	59.6%	63.7%
18 to 64 at risk	FLU	187751	98544	52.5%	56.7%
Total	COVID	521474	356851	68.4%	72.5%
Total	Flu	598461	343560	59.1%	63.6%

Staff Uptake

National Data indicates the following uptake levels which remain disappointingly low. Feedback across Scotland is that Staff vaccination uptake is reverting to pre –pandemic levels when the aim was for 50% of eligible staff to be vaccinated.

		GGC	GGC	GGC	Scotland
		Number eligible	Number vaccinated	% uptake	% uptake
All Health and Social Care staff	Flu	73486	32414	44.1%	46.7%
Health care staff	Flu	41107	21758	52.9%	55.6%
Social care staff	Flu	32662	10757	32.9%	36.3%
Frontline Health and Social care	COVID	51903	23778	45.8%	47.7%
Frontline Health Care	COVID	22990	12828	55.8%	57.5%
Frontline social care	COVID	28913	10950	37.9%	40.3%

Spring Booster 2023

The detailed policy guidance to allow the implementation of the JCVI decisions is expected over the next couple of weeks. Expected decisions are the end of the rolling programme for healthy 18-49 year olds from the 31st of March and the administration of a Spring Booster in the 2nd quarter of 2023.

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Plans are being put in place to offer all care home residents a spring booster from 27th March. Community clinics will then invite all patients aged over 75 and those who are 5 to 74 with a weakened immune system to attend from the 10th of April.

Current National modelling has over 138,000 GGC residents to be offered a vaccine and forecasts the spring booster to be completed by the end of June 2023.