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PHPU Newsletter

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Welcome

Welcome to our PHPU newsletter – back by popular demand after the pandemic. We hope you find it useful. Feedback is welcome – please email us at phpu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Investigation into higher than usual rates of hepatitis in children across the UK

NHS GGC were investigating cases of acute onset hepatitis in children aged 10 and under, presenting to health care from January this year. Sadly some children required liver transplantation and were seriously unwell. Thankfully cases appear to be declining in all areas. While there is no current clear cause for this increase in cases, two common viruses, adenovirus (>60%) and Covid infections have been identified in a high number of the children affected.

Signs and symptoms of hepatitis include:

- jaundice, where there is a yellow tinge in the whites of the eyes or on the skin,
- feeling sick, vomiting, loss of appetite and stomach pain
- dark urine
- pale grey coloured poo
- itchy skin
- muscle and joint pains
- tiredness

If a parent suspect's jaundice, then they should contact their GP or NHS24.

It is important that parents and other care givers encourage and support children to practice good hand and respiratory hygiene as this will help reduce the spread of these viruses.

Further information can be found at:

[Investigation into higher than usual rates of hepatitis in children – an update - News - Public Health Scotland](#)

[Investigation into acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology in children in England: case update - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Smallpox (Monkeypox) Vaccination - Imvanex

Shortly deploying outside post-exposure context is the smallpox vaccine modified vaccinia ankara produced by Bavarian Nordic (MVA-BN, trade name Imvanex in the EU

and Jynneos in the US). This is an attenuated non-replicating live vaccine containing vaccinia virus which is an orthopoxvirus. Cross-protection from other orthopoxviruses is conferred hence its use against the current outbreak of monkeypox in the UK. Soon this vaccine will be given pre-exposure to high-risk groups such as healthcare staff in sexual health and certain gay/bisexual men who have sex with men (GBMSM), breaking transmission. The vaccine is delivered subcutaneously and patients will attend Sandyford sexual health services to receive it.

Vaccination Transformation Programme (VTP)

In 2017 it was announced, the Vaccination Transformation Programme (VTP), as part of the wider Primary Care Transformation Programme (PCTP), aims to ensure the health of the Scottish public through the modernisation of the delivery of all vaccination programmes, empowering local decision making and supporting the transformation of the role of the General Practitioner. It recognises the need to modernise and empower Health Boards/Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) to deliver all vaccination programmes including travel health.

Over the last few years changes have taken place to how vaccinations are delivered. Pre 5 and School Immunisations are fully devolved and delivered by Pre 5 and primary and secondary school nursing staff and hosted by Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership. Maternity Services also have their own Nurse Vaccinators who deliver Pertussis and Flu (when in season) to pregnant women. Maternity also delivered Covid Vaccination to women and their partners after the advice changed in August last year and pregnant women were recommended to have the Covid Vaccination.

Ad Hoc Vaccinations

All Ad Hoc Vaccinations have been removed and between the 1st April and 30th June 2022 we have received just under 1,000 referrals from General Practice and Acute. We are currently working with colleagues in E Health to develop a SCI Gateway pathway as a longer term solution for referrals and this is currently being built by the E Health Team. It is anticipated that the SCI Gateway should be available by end of August 2022.

The referrals fall into specific groups. Most commonly these are:

- SIS Patients – Allografts, Bone Marrow Transplants
- Those requiring vaccination prior to treatment E.g. MMR, Varicella
- Those who have recently moved to the UK
- Those who have had a BBV exposure or Human/Animal Bite

Travel Health Vaccinations

Two providers for NHS GGC have been appointed following a competitive tendering process. The providers are Emcare (North West Glasgow residents) and City Doc (all other residents). Travellers are advised in the first instance to:

- Check Fit for Travel
- Use the destination checker to see the vaccination requirements
- Contact their service provider

The provider will then conduct a risk assessment either face to face or virtually. Once completed the vaccinations that are clinically indicated can be administered. The contact details for service providers have been shared with GPs/Pharmacists. Information is also on the NHS GGC Website:

[Overseas Travel Vaccinations - NHS GGC](#)

There are 4 travel vaccinations available on the NHS:

- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid
- Cholera
- DTP (Revaxis)

Other Vaccinations required for destinations incur a charge. These can either be provided by the contracted providers or a service of the individual's choice.

Autumn/Winter Programme - Peer Immunisation

This coming Flu season, we will adopt a Peer Immunisation delivery model for the staff flu programme alongside community clinics. Communication has been sent to previous registered peer immunisers to confirm if they are willing to take on the role this year. We have been overwhelmed by the response with over 150 peer immuniser's across NHS GGC. Work is currently underway in the background and information will be shared with peer immunisers in due course.

Vaccination Centre Locations

2022 has seen the Community clinics evolve covering more than just Covid and Flu vaccinations. At its peak there were 19 locations spread across the following areas, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, West Dumbartonshire, East Dumbartonshire, Inverclyde and Glasgow City. Each clinic has seen patients who are eligible for their 1st, 2nd, Covid Boosters, Pneumococcal and Shingles.

The Immunisation team have also been supporting those inpatients in 5 acute sites to receive their Covid Spring Booster.

The Shingles programme commenced at the end of June month with the team immunising those patients who are contraindicated in receiving the live vaccine in the first instance then moving onto the general cohort.

In addition, we have also been supporting the Monkeypox contact vaccinations in conjunction with the Health Protection Team. This has required staff to access all current guidance on the Vaccination and have experience in subcutaneous injections. The team have read all resources and have immunised under PSD's.

In addition, from a service improvement aspect we are moving forward with training for BLS Trainers within our own team. Three Clinical Leads have been trained in order to provide inhouse training for our team.

Four Clinical Leads are developing a teaching pack for new staff and will deliver ongoing training.

The Immunisation team are also supporting Occupational Health with vaccinating almost 600 staff members for Hep B Vaccine over July and Aug.

The management team have introduced the updated Generic Proficiency Documents for registered staff to undertake in order to assess competencies, and unregistered staff will

complete the Proficiency Document for Covid and Flu available on Turas Learn as part of induction and on an annual basis.

Standard Operating Procedures or guidance continue to be developed for any required Governance within the team.

We have recently recruited an additional 24 Band 3 HCSW Vaccinators who will undertake an induction programme alongside induction days and any required learning. A further recruitment drive in August will take us up to a total of 11 HCSW Band 2s, 30 Band 3 HCSW Vaccinators, 29 B5 Vaccinators and 17 Clinical lead

Summer Fun and Games

NHS GGC wants you to enjoy nature but also to stay safe when out and about in summer. So we have some top tips for helping you play safely.

Barbeques

- Light the barbecue well in advance, using sufficient charcoal which should be glowing red before you commence cooking.
- Always wash your hands thoroughly before preparing food, after touching raw meat, before eating and after using the toilet.
- Always keep raw meat and cooked or ready-to-eat food separate to avoid cross contamination.
 - Don't put raw meats next to cooked or partially cooked that are on the grill
 - Don't use the same utensils for raw and cooked foods
 - Don't place cooked foods on plates that have held raw meats
 - Do not use left-over marinade of raw meats as a sauce for cooked meats
- Defrost frozen meats thoroughly in your fridge for 24 hours before the barbecue or use a microwave for the same purpose.
Keep food covered to prevent insects and pets getting to it.
- Don't assume the meat is cooked all the way through just because the outside surface looks well charred. Check that there are no pink bits in the middle of any cooked meat and that the juices run clear.
- If cooking for a large number of people, consider pre-cooking poultry and other meats in an oven beforehand to ensure that it is cooked thoroughly, before finishing off on the barbecue.
- Avoid drinking excess alcohol if you are cooking as this can impair awareness of good food hygiene measures and fire safety awareness.

Picnics

- Avoid picnicking in fields that are usually used for livestock.
- Leave food in the fridge until the last moment.
- Wash fruit and vegetables thoroughly before packing them for the picnic.
- Use a cool bag with ice packs to keep food cool during the journey and at the picnic site.
 - Keep the cool bag in the coolest part of the car, away from direct sunlight.
 - On arrival keep the lid of the cool box on and keep the box in the shade if possible.
 - Wash hands or use antiseptic wipes before eating and immediately after any contact with animals.
 - In visits to farms or zoo parks, do not eat food in areas allocated to animal contact or petting animals.
 - Use only safe drinking water for drinking, washing food and dishes and do not drink untreated water from streams, rivers or lochs. Doing so can lead to stomach upset, vomiting and diarrhoea.

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Wild Swimming

- If you, your children or your friends cannot swim its best to stay away from the water. If you do decide to venture in, make sure you remain vigilant at all times, carefully check out the extent of the shallows and set clear boundaries for paddling
- Do not go wild swimming alone
- Do not rely on inflatables, these can cause you to drift into deeper water and may not aid swimming
- Cold water affects swimming ability, so wear a wetsuit if you want to have a long swim rather than a quick dip
- Cold water shock can kill, so wade in slowly. Or if you fall in try and stay calm and float for 60 seconds rather than trying to swim as that gives your body and mind time to adjust to the cold
- If your teeth start to chatter and you are shivering, you should leave the water, get dried and heat up as this is a sign of hypothermia. Quick ways of heating up are to do exercises such as jogging etc
- Try not to swallow any raw water whilst swimming and its inadvisable to drink from any untreated water source, doing so can lead to stomach upset, vomiting and diarrhoea

Visit Scotland has lots more safety tips [A Guide to Outdoor Safety Tips | VisitScotland](#)
NHS Inform has good information on [Avoiding bugs and germs outdoors | NHS inform](#)
NHS Inform has good information on food poisoning [Gastroenteritis | NHS inform](#)