

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(10 April 2020 at 12:10pm)

This Easter is like no other. The roads are quiet, holidays have been cancelled and families are apart, in their homes, observing social distancing. But whilst the country stays at home to protect the NHS and to save lives, many of us will be coming in to work over the Easter weekend to care for our patients and to support frontline staff.

Last week the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport wrote to GP practices and requested that they remain open this Good Friday and Easter Monday. Every single GP practice in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde agreed to do so and I want to thank our primary care teams for this tremendous response.

Along with colleagues in community pharmacies, many of whom will also open this Easter weekend, our GPs and their practice staff will play a vital role in continuing to assess and treat many non COVID-19 patients, relieving pressure on out-of-hours services this weekend.

Of course, our GPs are also part of the multidisciplinary teams playing a key role in staffing our community assessment centres which have opened now in seven locations across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. These teams of domestic staff, administration, security, IT, pharmacy, nurses and GPs have come together quickly and set up new ways of working to care for symptomatic COVID-19 patients. They will also be working this weekend and my thanks go to them all.

Whilst many hospital staff are used to working at Easter, colleagues within our acute and mental health hospitals are also working in highly unusual, difficult and challenging circumstances. Thank you to each and every hard-working member of our hospital teams for all that you are doing to care for patients, including those who are critically ill, at this time. Your dedication and commitment to your patients is unfailing and I am grateful to you all.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Easter.

Jane Grant
Chief Executive