

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive

(18 December 2020, 3.35pm)

I am delighted that the first of three regional hubs for COVID testing has opened at our Gartnavel site. NHSGGC will be operationally responsible for the Glasgow (West) hub, which will, over time increase Scotland's testing capacity by up to 12,000 tests per day. This is a significant number, with our team playing a central role in supporting the COVID effort.

The testing systems that the team will be using are some of the first of their type to be used in Europe, so we are also very much at the cutting edge of technology. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Jeane Freeman MSP, recently visited the site to see the equipment in situ and meet with some of the team, who were able to provide a very informative brief on how the new systems work and the role of our staff in delivering this extensive testing capability.

I would like to sincerely thank the team, who have worked tirelessly to set-up the test hub particularly swiftly and under challenging circumstances. You have enabled NHSGGC to lead the way in stepping up testing capability to the benefit of both our local communities and others across Scotland.

I'm also pleased to let you know that we have commenced the roll-out of the COVID vaccination programme to care home residents in our area this week. The first resident to be vaccinated was James Livingston from the Abbotsford House Care Home in East Dunbartonshire, who was vaccinated yesterday. Other care homes across Greater Glasgow and Clyde will start their vaccination programmes today, which is great news for all of our care home residents.

I would also like to confirm that the programme team is working at pace to get those staff in the first priority groups vaccinated swiftly. Thank you for your patience while this work is underway. We will keep you updated about the next phases of the vaccination programme as soon as we have details to share.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for us all, but I have been overwhelmed by the level of commitment from our staff across all areas. All of you have gone the extra mile to support us to do all we can to drive down the virus and support the public to do the same. Your efforts are appreciated and I thank you all.

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