

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(16 April 2021, 2pm)**

I was delighted to see colleagues from Inverclyde Royal Hospital recognised last night in the Greenock Telegraph's Health and Care Awards 2021, with nominees and winners from across our teams. The hospital was the first in Scotland to be severely affected by COVID-19 in March of last year and staff have responded incredibly since then to the challenges of the pandemic.

Well done to the staff within G South Ward who won the Health Team of the Year Award and to Louise Tosh who has won Nurse of the Year. My congratulations also go to Dr Mun Woo and Dr Abby Gunn who were named as joint winners in doctor/GP of the Year Award. Their awards are thoroughly deserved and I am very pleased that they have had this recognition from the community and from the Greenock Telegraph.

Further cause for celebration this week is the news that some COVID restrictions are being lifted ahead of schedule today. As you will be aware, it is now possible to travel out of your local area for non-essential reasons and for six people from up to six households to meet up outdoors. I hope that you get some time off to take advantage of the relaxation of the restrictions and to meet up with friends and family. However, it is really important that even with the easing of guidelines, we still do all we can to stay safe and avoid the spread of COVID 19. Please remember to maintain social distancing, continue to keep your hands clean and wear a face covering where required.

I would also ask everyone who has been provided with a lateral flow test device to continue to take a test twice a week, even if you have received both vaccine shots. Many of you have been testing regularly since the start of the pandemic and my thanks go to you for continuing to support this programme. I hope you managed to read Alan's account in the Core Brief yesterday of how as a podiatrist visiting patients he takes the quick test to provide assurance for our high risk and vulnerable patients and for staff. As we all get to more opportunities to meet up with our friends and families in the coming weeks it is very important that we keep testing to ensure our patients and colleagues are not at risk.

Finally, this week saw the start of Ramadan which will continue until Wednesday 12 May. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim colleagues my very best wishes.

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check