

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive

(23 April 2021, 4.15pm)

Monday 26th April will be an important day as we extend visiting and allow more visitors into our hospitals to see their loved ones. I am aware that staff and patients have really struggled with the very restricted visiting that has been permitted over the past few months and my thanks go to our nursing and midwifery teams, ward clerks and those who were deployed from other areas for all you have done to keep families connected during this time.

Of course, we need to remain vigilant as we allow visitors once again into our hospitals and we will be strongly encouraging our visitors to take a lateral flow test before coming to hospital.

With the return of some visitors to our hospitals, the Give and Go volunteer service will begin to be scaled down. I want to take this opportunity to thank our voluntary services team and our volunteers for enabling patients to continue receiving personal items and helping us to deliver person centred, compassionate care.

Monday will also see the welcome return of some of our colleagues who have previously been shielding and who are now able to return to work. For colleagues who were off for a prolonged period of time, I understand that the transition back to the workplace may be challenging. The checklist that has been prepared to support returning shielding staff encourages us all to welcome colleagues back with compassion and understanding and this will be important for us all to remember.

As we begin to experience greater personal freedoms, including the return of hospitality and non-essential shopping, we are also seeing COVID hospitalisations and critical care numbers reduce to their lowest levels since September. With this significantly improved position, colleagues who supported our COVID response are beginning to return to their substantive roles and non-COVID activity is increasing. Our vaccination programme is also continuing to make significant progress, having completed the first vaccination of the nine priority groups set by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. The situation in our care homes is also much improved.

It therefore seems an appropriate time to pause and reflect on all that you have achieved over the past year and to thank you all for your tremendous efforts. As a small token of our gratitude, every member of staff will receive from next week a commemorative COVID exceptional service badge. Arrangements have been made for these to be distributed to everyone, whether you are working from home or the workplace and my thanks go to colleagues who have helped with the distribution arrangements.

If you don't receive a badge within the next two weeks, please send your name and address to: staffnewsletter@ggc.scot.nhs.uk and we will ensure a badge is sent to you.

Thank you.



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