

# Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive**  
**(21 May 2021, 5.35pm)**

As I'm sure you all will have seen, this week has brought a significant amount of focus within Glasgow City regarding the continued rise in COVID-19 cases. Our vaccination team worked over the weekend to set up a new COVID-19 vaccination centre at the Glasgow Central Mosque, which was a significant and very important step forward. I am grateful to colleagues in the vaccination team and the leaders at the Mosque for their continued support to both the vaccination and asymptomatic testing facilities in the city, having hosted both on their site in recent months.

Likewise, our Equalities team, alongside our HSCP and Glasgow City Council colleagues, have been working tirelessly to ensure we can reach out to communities in the city who face barriers, so we can continue to inform everyone about the services available to them and encourage uptake of vaccinations and testing. We have been fortunate to build on existing strong relationships to ensure our public health messaging reaches everyone in our local communities. This truly is a community effort and I have been very encouraged by the public coming forward to receive their vaccinations as well as putting themselves forward for asymptomatic testing.

However, we now face the additional challenge of increased numbers in East Renfrewshire. Our teams are currently working with East Renfrewshire Council to augment testing with Mobile Testing Units and Lateral Flow Device collections. We are texting people who did not take up vaccination when invited to encourage uptake. We will take some good learning from what we have undertaken in Glasgow so that together we can help local families to stay safe.

I would like to thank all of our staff within Public Health and those from our wider teams who have been working round the clock, over the past ten days in particular, to speed up the vaccination programme, provide community testing and guidance to the public. I would also like to thank Cordia staff for their support with the door-to-door deliveries of the PCR tests at short notice and Glasgow City HSCP and Council for organising the door-to-door PCR testing so quickly. Thank you to all for mobilising so quickly and effectively.

Finally, you may have seen the news of the launch of a new UK clinical trial to test the impact of a third dose on patients' immune responses. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is the only Scottish health board to participate in the trial which will look at seven different COVID-19 vaccines as potential boosters, given at least 10 to 12 weeks after a second dose as part of the ongoing vaccination programme.

Vaccination, a vital part of our defences against COVID, is only possible due to a significant programme of international clinical trials and research and I am proud that once again our Research and Innovation teams are at the forefront of this vital work.

Thank you.