

Core brief

Daily update

(20 December 2021, 2.05pm)

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A Christmas letter to everyone in the NHS from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

A personal [Christmas message](#) to everyone in the NHS, thanking you for your dedication and commitment throughout 2021 has been sent from the Joint Royal Patrons of NHS Charities Together, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (The Earl and Countess of Strathearn).

Our public appeal to help reduce waits at vaccination clinics

Our Public Health teams have issued an urgent appeal to members of the public today to help reduce queues at COVID vaccination centres.

As the spread of the Omicron variant continues, more and more people are coming forward to receive their jab and clinics up and down the country are experiencing queuing. In response, we have recruited more vaccinators and are utilising support from Armed Forces personnel, meaning that more people than ever are being seen, including a whopping 17,000 in just one day last week. However, with the increased rush for people to get protected before Christmas, there is increased pressure on clinics.

To try and help reduce queues in the coming days, if you, your family members or friends are going to be vaccinated, please follow these five simple steps:

1. **Appointment is best:** By booking your slot, you are more likely to be seen. We run a mix of appointment and drop-in clinics, and members of the public should only attend a drop in clinic without an appointment
2. **Don't turn up too early: five minutes before is sufficient:** One of the main cause of queues is people turning up very early for their appointment. This means that patients who turn up on time have to join a queue and have a wait. We are asking people to turn up just five minutes before their appointments. If everyone can do this, it will help us to cut queues significantly.
3. **Please check your eligibility before you travel:** Currently, we are vaccinating all eligible age groups by appointment and in priority order. Drop-ins are only available to people aged 40 and over and Health and Social Care Workers so that we can prioritise people who are in excess of 12 weeks from their second dose. More information is available on our website about eligibility criteria.
4. **Avoid the busy periods and consider travelling to a quieter or larger clinic if you can:** Our vaccination centres have a large number of appointments available throughout the day, but please consider the time you book. Also, remember to check availability at clinics a little further away from your local area if you are able to travel. There are thousands of appointments available at Hampden Park Stadium on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 December, so if you can go slightly further for an appointment, this may help to take pressure off some of the smaller clinics and free appointments up for others who cannot travel. There are also clinics in other Health Board areas

which might be easier for some people to get to and these are also available to book via the national portal.

5. **Everyone can help:** If everybody sticks to these simple rules, we can all make a difference and help stop long queues.

Power of Attorney in Scotland

A Power of Attorney is more important than ever: Covid-19 has seen many more people lose capacity, even for a short time. Take your first steps and make your plan today.

Power of Attorney is about giving you the power to make decisions that will protect you, your family and those you care about should you ever lose capacity to make decisions for yourself. It has never been more important to plan for your future care - no matter what age you are, a power of attorney safe-guards your financial and health wishes.

For more information visit: [Home - My Power Of Attorney](#), follow us on Twitter: @StartTalkingPoA #powerofattorneyday or watch our [festive video here](#). (please watch on Microsoft Edge).

Have a COVID Safe Festive Season

As we approach the festive season we would like to remind staff of the importance of maintaining the COVID safety control measures below, to ensure that those staff who plan to spend time with family and friends are able to do so safely:

Remember:

- [Stay at home if you have symptoms](#) – Please display this poster in a visible area.
- The priority remains for staff to work from home where possible
- Comply with **two metre Physical Distancing** and [wear a face mask/covering](#) – on breaks, using changing rooms, entering and leaving buildings. Ensure staff continue to be briefed on the use of face masks/coverings
- Avoid car sharing where possible. If car sharing is essential, please use a suitable face covering, keep windows open to allow the circulation of air and sit at the furthest points apart
- Continue to practice good hand hygiene at all times through washing and use of hand sanitiser
- Refrain from touching the nose, mouth or eyes with unwashed hands or touching your face covering/mask often
- Avoid sharing equipment including stationery, keyboards and telephones and ensure cleaning protocols are in place
- Ensure protocols are in place so that high touch points are cleaned regularly including door handles and [screens](#)
- Open windows to allow natural ventilation and where there is mechanical ventilation, make sure it is on
- Complete a DATIX to report any health and safety shortfalls.

Please note; there should be no shared food stations / buffets within the workplace.

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19. If you have any questions about the current situation please check the FAQs first. If you have any further questions, please email: HR.Support@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

***Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).

**It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.
A full archive of printable PDFs are available on [StaffNet](#)**