

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(11 March 2022, 11.30am)

Unfortunately, we have seen numbers of patients with COVID rise significantly in the past week, with 577 people currently in hospital having been diagnosed with the virus in the past 28 days. We are also seeing a similar increasing picture in our care homes amongst residents. As a result, a number of wards are closed to admissions, which is causing significant challenges to patient flow.

I recognise that the rise in patient numbers and the logistical challenges this brings to our teams is being further compounded by the difficulties we face due to delayed discharges. This is a serious issue for us and is causing considerable concern. Our priority is ensuring we are able to move our patients on to an appropriate environment once they no longer need clinical care, however, with many elderly care homes closed to admissions and with significant sickness and absence amongst care at home staff, the challenge becomes that much greater. We continue to work closely with HSCP colleagues, care homes, patients and families to arrange supported discharge for patients as quickly as possible.

We are also, once again, seeing significant staff absences due to COVID in our hospitals. I would like to reassure staff that our HR team continues to work hard to on-board more staff to areas facing the greatest challenges and I would like to ask for your patience while this work continues. The situation does remain tough, so if you feel you need additional support, please use the services that are available to you. My thanks go to everyone who continues to support our patients and their families despite all of the continued challenges we are facing

I would like to thank our staff who set up the donation service to support the Ukrainian relief effort last week, including Lauren Dickson and Frances Carmichael, who arranged the collection point at the QEUH and the onward transportation of goods to the people affected by the conflict. I would also like to thank the generous members of staff who have donated items to the cause. Once again, you have shown the significant generosity of our NMSGC teams. Thanks to you all.

We have also received guidance from the Scottish Government this week about the best ways in which staff can help support the ongoing humanitarian effort. The guidance is that given the changing needs of displaced groups and those people still living in Ukraine, the best way to help them is to donate funds to, or volunteer with, charities that are registered in the UK, that have an ongoing relief operation. Cash donations can be made through established appeal mechanisms, such as the [Disaster Emergency Committee \(DEC\)](#) or the [UNICEF UK appeal](#), which has a dedicated website to help you make donations in a secure way.

The current situation in Ukraine has highlighted the potential for an increased level of cyber-attacks and malware to shut down or disable corporate or public bodies via their IT systems. Our teams are closely engaged with the Scottish Government to ensure we are as prepared as possible for any potential attack and I want to ask staff to please be vigilant when online. Please pay particular attention to unsolicited or

suspicious emails and make sure that you don't open or click on links in messages when you do not know the sender.

I would like to offer my thanks to the team on Ward 8C at GGH, who have received some really positive feedback from the relative of an elderly patient this week. Writing about their mother's care, the relative noted that "From the minute she was admitted to the ward, the care, friendship and compassion she received was second to none. Everyone had time to assure and befriend our mum going over and above what was required in their posts. This was the case for all staff - nursing, support, cleaning and voluntary services and all were a credit to themselves and the NHS. They have our sincere gratitude. The cleaning and maintenance of the ward and infection control services were also a credit to the NHS and we never worried about our mum's safety during her stay. Our thanks to the NHS." This wonderful feedback shows the significant difference that teamwork can make to our patients and their families and I would like to sincerely thank every member of staff working on the ward for the care and consideration shown. Well done to you all.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Anniversary all NHSGGC staff are being awarded an additional day of annual leave. This additional holiday is to be taken in the annual leave year 2022/23, so please make provision for this when planning your leave this year. For GPs working in the NHSGGC area, please note that as per the national agreement, you will retain the Public Holiday on Monday 30th May 2022 and will also have the additional Public Holiday on Friday 3rd June 2022.

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