



Dear Colleagues,

A really big thank you to all those who were involved in providing and supporting services during the bad weather last week, and particularly over the weekend as roads closed.

Businesses and individuals took care of staff who couldn't reach home, and staff continued to provide health and care across the county despite the extreme weather. An amazing

response that epitomises what integration is about - working as communities to ensure those needing care are supported and receive that care. We should hold on to how that felt and remember how powerful it is when we work collegiately across sectors. Integration is for "peacetime" as much as in a crisis.

Another success is the volume of covid vaccinations that have been achieved to date. All those who have come forward to be vaccinators and to support the programme are hugely valued. We are flexing our capacity according to vaccine supply and are grateful for the rotas being filled as required. Thank you to all those involved with this vital programme.

**Simon Bokor-Ingram,
Interim Chief Officer**

Community testing programme – NHS Grampian and Moray Council will begin the phased roll out of a new Covid-19 asymptomatic community testing programme aimed at identifying positive cases and breaking chains of transmission.

The programme offers free testing for members of the public who have no symptoms associated with Covid-19 but who could be infectious and spreading the virus without knowing it.

Funded by the Scottish Government, the mobile unit will be able to adapt to focus on the Moray communities where the latest data points to a testing need.

Moray's first site is set to open in Keith next Monday and run for two weeks. No appointment is needed to attend. The pop-up testing unit will then move between Moray towns for the next three months in an effort to drive down community transmission.

Any support that individuals and families may need following testing will be provided on site.

Moray Covid cases – The seven day positivity rate in Moray has fallen to 4.4% (based on people tested between 7-13 Feb), having reached as high as 7.4% in early January.

The fall is welcomed although the seven day rate per 100,000 of 66.8 puts Moray higher than 12 other local authority areas including Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, with most cases detected among residents in the east side of Moray.

Vaccination programme – Care home residents and staff will be offered their second doses of the Covid-19 vaccine from this week while a number of additional outreach clinics will be held to ensure people aged 75 and over who may have missed out on their initial appointment receive their first vaccination.

Planning is in hand for delivery of all second vaccinations for eligible health and social care staff within the 12 week window advised and appointments will be allocated in due course.

All clinics have been running well despite travel disruption resulting from the wintry weather leading to an increased number of people unable to attend their appointments. These can be rebooked using the contact details on the vaccination letter people received.

Stagecoach now operates a direct shuttle bus between Elgin bus station and the Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre on Edgar Road. Additional volunteer drivers are also being recruited by the RVS across Grampian to support people who cannot access transport to get to their appointment.

Volunteers from organisations including the Red Cross and Rotary along with NHS Grampian volunteers provide marshalling support at the clinics and we are grateful for their continued assistance.

The Forres clinic is moving from Mosset Park to the larger venue of Forres Town Hall from Monday to provide increased flexibility in the delivery of the programme. Our thanks go to everyone at Forres Mechanics who went above and beyond to provide the facility which has been used successfully as a vaccination clinic since the start of February.

The future pace of the programme may require to be adjusted in line with an anticipated national reduction in vaccine supply.

Care homes – Management and staff in care homes where covid has been detected have worked extremely hard to follow good infection prevention and control practice. Thanks to workforce resilience and contingency planning, all have been able to maintain safe levels of staffing to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

System pressures – Demand for hospital beds in both Dr Gray's and Aberdeen Royal Infirmary remains high, reflecting the current pressure on the system with many patients presenting late with significant illness. All teams are working exceptionally hard to follow the good practice necessary to manage patients effectively and with minimal delays as they move through stages of care and so improve patient outcomes.