



Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to all those who are involved in running our flu vaccination clinics. A good number of folk have now been vaccinated.

The campaign has not had a smooth start, with letters either not going out or some arriving late. The helpline number has changed as people were not getting through on the previous system.

Apologies if you are one of those who received a late letter, or haven't been able to get through on the helpline.

Lots of lessons learned and improvements to the process being made rapidly.

The report published this week on the impact of the pandemic on Unpaid Carers is a stark reminder of the wider consequences of covid.

Third sector organisations and community groups have also provided crucial support to families and Unpaid Carers.

We will need to work together over what is predicted to be a challenging winter, using each other's strengths to continue supporting those most in need.

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

Covid-19 cases - The number of positive Covid-19 cases being reported to the Grampian Test and Protect team continues to be variable. Over the past week the average daily number of new cases in Grampian has been 37. The 18-29 year olds continue to be the main group recording positive cases.

The rate of new cases over the past week has been 47/100,000 population, compared to a Scottish average of 125/100,000 and with some areas as high as 300/100,000.

The Covid assessment hubs are triaging around 40 patients a day. The number of patients in hospital is 29.

Winter planning - The Moray partnership has a focus on controlling the additional pressures experienced in hospitals during the winter months.

The usual winter demand this year is likely to be adversely affected by the continuing presence of covid-19 and the possibility of further peaks in presentations.

Our plans to ensure resilience over winter follows our Home First approach to utilising local teams and resources to support people at home, to reduce inappropriate hospital attendances and admissions and to improve delayed discharge performance.

The Discharge to Assess pilot service is up and running, providing intensive rehabilitation within the community setting. It will support discharge, prevent admissions and maximise patient potential towards continuous and sustained self-management.

A test of change has commenced with two groups of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who might ordinarily be admitted to hospital during an exacerbation of their condition.

Improvement work continues to be stepped up to address the number of people who remain delayed in hospital by considering how best to facilitate quicker assessment of need and the capacity required to provide packages of care within the community so patients can return home when medically fit.

Vaccination update – The immunisation programme for flu is designed to be delivered to 225,000 people over a three month period (October to December). So far more than 40,000 vaccinations have been delivered across Grampian, concentrating on the over 65s and those in certain higher risk categories.

There have been good levels of uptake in Moray, City and Shire, however this may cause some pressure on the vaccine supply chain in both the short and longer term. The team are working very hard to minimise the risk of any clinics having to be postponed while available supplies are redistributed.

On Tuesday the programme moved to a new helpline (0345 3379899) which will be capable of managing a much higher number of calls and additional staff are being taken on to respond to calls and emails. Priority is being given to people who need to rearrange already issued appointments. People are asked to await their letter before contacting the helpline with any questions.

The staff vaccination programme for those working in health and social care services remains fully operational and all staff are encouraged to make an appointment to be immunised.

Hospitals – Both ARI and Dr Gray's remain very busy with both seeing increased attendances and admissions. The established pathway between the two hospitals for any identified or suspected covid-positive patients remain in place.

Day services remobilisation – Service users who attended learning disability day services pre-covid are being contacted by social workers from the Community Learning Disability Team to advise them of their offer from the Allocations Panel and to discuss alternatives to a day service if they are unable to return at this time.

The first learning disability day services are planned to resume next week, subject to final approval of revised risk assessments.

The commissioned providers of day services for older people in Forres and Elgin have taken the decision not to re-open their services. This leaves a significant deficit in provision and considerations are underway as to how that can best be filled.

Social work staff are doing all they can to support families but are limited in what they can do in terms of available respite support, recognising the impact this has on individuals and families.

Carers Scotland and Carers UK have this week released an update on their 'Caring behind closed doors' report which summarises the impact of the pandemic on unpaid carers.

- More than three quarters of carers (77%) said they are exhausted and worn out as a result of caring during the pandemic
- Two thirds (65%) told Carers Scotland they hadn't been able to take any breaks whatsoever in the last six months

Sandi Downing, Quarriers Project Manager who is part of the local remobilisation group, said: "These statistics reinforce the very real needs of carers in Moray, across the spectrum of conditions and circumstances, and the challenge faced not only in relation to remobilising day care and respite, but in supporting those carers generally to sustain their caring role over the coming months."

Face coverings – Staff are reminded it is now mandatory to wear a face covering in indoor communal workplaces. Visitors to buildings must be made aware of the requirement.



**New guidance on
wearing face coverings
in indoor communal
workplace settings**

