



Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the rapid response to the mains gas outage in Keith, with teams rallying round to support our most vulnerable residents and ensure that all those that might need support are able to access it. Health and Social Care Moray really stepped up quickly, so particular thanks for that.

I really hope that supplies can be restored quickly to all those affected areas. Spare a thought for the folk having to dig and search pipework in this cold weather.

With more snow forecast over the next week or so, please take particular care on the roads and pavements. I was reminded how treacherous it can be when walking my dog the other night. Exuberance at being in the snow led to a lurch forward, and muggins here on the end of the lead became a sort of husky sledger - in wellies.

Our hospitals don't need any more pressure so for my walk tonight I will be better prepared.

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

Mains gas outage – Agencies have pulled together to ensure the welfare of residents in the Keith and Newmill areas following a mains gas outage which is affecting around 4,500 households.

Health & Social Care Moray identified and made contact with patients, service users and families – including those with new babies – to offer help with the loss of heating and cooking facilities. The Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Hub is making calls to residents on the shielding list to check what support is required.

Gas company SGN and Moray Council were able to supply priority customers and council tenants with temporary heaters while some householders were also provided with hot plates.

Turner Memorial Hospital experienced limited disruption and boilers remain on oil. Weston View Care Home received offers of heaters and extra blankets from other homes to ensure residents were kept comfortable. Glenisla fortunately does not use gas.

We are very grateful to the local community which has once again rallied round to support family, friends and neighbours while work continues to restore the gas supply.

Covid vaccinations – The vaccination programme in Moray has been progressing very positively, with vaccinations provided at pace which matches the supply of vaccine stocks and meets the national schedules set by the Scottish Government.

Most people aged 80 and over will now have received their first dose of the vaccine and the push continues in Wave 2 to offer immunisation to the over 70s and those who are clinically vulnerable.

The majority of appointments will be for the Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre in Elgin which will begin to operate seven days a week, 12 hours a day.

Community asymptomatic testing – NHS Grampian and Moray Council are to begin the phased roll out of a new covid asymptomatic testing programme aimed at identifying positive cases and breaking chains of transmission.

The offer of testing for members of the public who have no symptoms associated with covid will play a key role in driving down the spread of the virus in Moray, where the seven day positivity rate of 5.9% remains higher than neighbouring Aberdeen City (4.7%) and Aberdeenshire (4.1%).

The increase in testing capacity will see the roll out of pop-up community testing centres in targeted locations including Buckie, Lossiemouth, Forres and Elgin from mid-February.

The centres will offer testing using lateral flow devices which provide people with rapid results – typically around 30 minutes. Anyone testing positive will receive an immediate PCR test to confirm if they are positive and will be sent home to self-isolate. Support will be offered as required.

Around 1 in 3 people with the virus don't experience any symptoms. The aim of the community asymptomatic testing is to help identify and isolate individuals who may inadvertently be spreading the virus.

Susan Webb, NHS Grampian's public health director, said: "Once the sites are operational, we will be asking people to make use of them if they are concerned that they may have been placed at increased risk in order to provide an additional method of detection."

Waste water testing will also be used to identify hotspots of transmission.

Delayed discharge – While capacity within the system is an important factor, focus by the delayed discharge action group on best practice, problem solving and more effective multi-disciplinary working is driving better performance.

Delayed discharges have fallen from 42 at the start of November to 20 yesterday (02.02.21). This performance now needs to continue driving down delays and to sustain improvements.

MIJB consultation – Consultation has begun on a proposal by the Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB) to amend its Integration Scheme to allow for an increase in the voting membership.

The voting membership of the Board reflects equal participation by the health board and local authority to ensure that there is joint decision making and accountability. There are currently six voting members – three nominated by each organisation. They are supported by a number of non-voting professional, clinical and stakeholder advisers.

To increase resilience and provide wider scrutiny across the Board and its committees, the Board is proposing that two additional voting members be appointed to take the total number to eight. Both Moray Council and NHS Grampian are in agreement.

The consultation runs until 3 March 2021 and more information is available on the Health & Social Care Moray website: <http://hscmoray.co.uk/consultation-on-board-membership.html>

Adult Support and Protection – The protection of vulnerable people remains a policing priority on both a local and national level. To raise awareness of adult support and protection matters, Police Scotland North East Division is supporting the health and social care partnerships in Grampian with a month-long social media campaign during February.

Health & Wellbeing – See Me's Time to Talk Day on 4th February is a great opportunity to reach out (virtually) to others to get the mental health conversation started.

With everything going on in the world it's never been more important for us all to be comfortable talking about mental health, and challenging stigma. A small conversation has the power to make a big difference and it's something we can all do which is why this year's theme is The Power of Small.

To support this, Health & Social Care Moray's Health & Wellbeing Group and the Moray Wellbeing Hub will be hosting a Time to Talk virtual tea break for staff tomorrow from 11-11.30am. To join the MS teams even please use the following link: [Time to Talk Virtual Tea Break](#).

A short staff survey relating to mental health and future workforce support from Moray Wellbeing Hub has gone live at <https://forms.gle/TyXt5CufZdwpHSLT7>

Details are now available for the February and March national webinar programme for wellbeing.

The various sessions are intended to support and encourage health and social care staff and unpaid carers to enhance personal resilience and self-care, complementing the resources available on the National Wellbeing Hub www.promis.scot

The programme and the booking details for each session are available on the Health & Social Care Moray website <http://hscmoray.co.uk/staff-wellbeing.html>