



Dear Colleagues,

Two really important work streams have started. The flu vaccination programme is a key priority and this is now underway with people having started to receive their vaccinations. The discharge to assess team are now up and running which will mean less time spent in hospital when no longer needed.

Those projects are in addition to the “day job”. A big thank you to everyone delivering services - new and pre-existing.

It's important that new developments get a spotlight, and as important that we don't forget those toiling away elsewhere. The whole pathway approach is just that - all parts are important.

The potential for further physical distancing measures are being considered and I am hearing concerns from colleagues about plans outside of work that might need to be changed.

Uncertainty for a long time can create stress in any of us. Rationalising how others might behave can lead to care rather than conflict, where the outburst can be met by concern rather than retaliation.

We need to care for each other. I know we will do this. Together.

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

Flu immunisation programme – The Moray programme got underway last week with the first round of local flu clinics held in Buckie. Initial feedback from the public on the new arrangements has been largely positive.

Across Grampian people will no longer get their free vaccination from their local GP practice but are being invited to attend a local vaccination clinic at a set appointment time.

It continues to be a significant piece of work to ensure that we have in place sufficient capacity to deliver on an expanded flu immunisation programme during a global pandemic.

Given the impact of Covid-19 on the most vulnerable in society, it is imperative that we do all that we can to reduce the risk of our vulnerable population contracting seasonal flu. We are actively encouraging and supporting target groups among our local residents to receive the seasonal flu immunisation this winter.

Delivery of the seasonal flu programme will protect those at risk, prevent ill health and minimise further impact on the health and social care sector.

All health and social care staff are urged to take up their free flu jab this year.

The flu vaccine will be offered to the following groups:

- Children aged 2-5
- School children in Primary 1-7
- Pregnant women
- People aged over 65
- People aged 55-64
- Anyone with an underlying medical condition such as asthma, COPD or diabetes
- Unpaid carers
- Health care workers
- Social care workers who provide direct care
- Anyone who lives with someone who is in the shielding category

A new NHS Grampian website - <https://www.fluvaxgrampian.com> has been created to help people stay informed on flu immunisation. There is also a flu call centre to deal with flu queries and appointment changes. This number is 01224 555999.

Home First – The Discharge to Assess (D2A) project launched this week for an initial six month pilot.

Kick-start funding has been secured to support the secondment of Occupational Therapy staff to provide leadership and for Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Support Workers to form the new team alongside two redeployed Therapy Support Workers. There will also be Geriatric Advanced Nurse Practitioner input to add to the comprehensive geriatric assessment of patients at home as part of the multi-disciplinary team.



Performance management and evaluation of D2A is being supported through the Moray Home First Delivery Group and at a Grampian level. This will enable the project to consider the higher-level measures of improvement as well as the granular detail of patient-focused outcomes.

Dawn Duncan, work stream lead, said resource has been shifted to enable the trial to go ahead and staff have great enthusiasm to make it work. The D2A team leads are working closely with the medical and nursing staff within Dr Gray's Hospital. Referrals will come from therapy staff who have assessed patients from the wards and Emergency Department who meet the project criteria.

The Delayed Discharge group meets three times a week to progress improvement approaches to reducing both the time patients spend in hospital with no more need for hospital care and the risks to patients from unnecessary time spent in hospital.

From a high of 36 at the end of last month there has been a recent downward trend and as of yesterday (06.10) the number of patients reported as delayed was 27.

Unpaid carers – Carers make a very significant contribution to the wellbeing of people in our communities. During the pandemic they have increased levels of support for those that they care for which has impacted on their own health and wellbeing.

The stepping down of planned respite and day care services has meant that many carers have not had a break from caring since March. Recovery planning for the re-establishment of day care and planned respite, along with the review of suspended care packages, continues to be progressed as a priority.

Workforce – We continue to plan for and re-mobilise services and a workforce to work within this pandemic over many months and years. Our systems are reconfiguring to establish robust services in a safe manner across all of health and social care while staff continue to face daily challenges in dealing with the aftermath and impact of covid on patients, service users and carers, on colleagues and on themselves.

Staff can access a number of online supports, supported by both employers including the National Wellbeing Hub: <https://www.promis.scot/>

