

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(15 January 2021, 3.45pm)**

As we move through January, I am very conscious that we continue to be exceptionally busy across all of our sites and services. There are some clear challenges faced by our teams in terms of managing the number of COVID patients being admitted to our hospitals, supporting the work in our care homes and generally having the capacity to support one another to continue to provide quality care in very demanding circumstances. I realise this is difficult and I appreciate all of the hard work and dedication from our staff right across Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

I am really pleased to see that COVID vaccinations continue to be rolled out across our area at pace. Our vaccination programme for those aged 80 and over has gathered real momentum this week. Many of our GPs have now started vaccinating some of our most elderly and vulnerable and I am particularly proud of the sense of community spirit that is being shown right across our region.

It is great to see photos and hear the stories from our vaccination teams who have the privilege of administering the vaccine to some of the most elderly members of our communities. One wonderful example was of 101 year old Mrs Emily Lawson from Kirkintilloch. She was born in 1919, when the last global pandemic, Spanish Flu, was rife. When she was only one month old, she was found lying beside her mother who was suffering from the deadly strain of influenza and was too ill to look after her new baby. This week she bravely rolled up her sleeve and received her COVID vaccination.

I would like to sincerely thank our vaccinators, our GPs and their teams for mobilising so rapidly to support people like Mrs Lawson. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Likewise, our staff vaccination programme is moving forward rapidly. Thousands of you have already received your first dose of the COVID vaccine and many more of you are set to do so in the coming weeks. I know many of you would like to be vaccinated straight away and we will reach you as quickly as possible, but I would ask for your patience while we vaccinate those in the priority groups first. You have my commitment that we will reach everyone as soon as we can.

Finally, thank you all for your continued support to deliver quality care right across all of our services. You are all doing a tremendous job.

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