

Core brief

Daily update

(24 December 2021, 1.20pm)

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Booster vaccination for staff

As we head towards 2022, our vaccination teams are doing everything possible to give as many people as possible access to their COVID-19 booster, including extended clinic opening hours and additional drop-in clinics.

For those staff members who are yet to receive your booster, you are strongly encouraged to do so, to help protect yourselves, your patients, colleagues, family and friends.

You can get your booster at any of our clinics or within another Health Board area, simply choose where you wish to receive your booster vaccine, either closer to work or home, by choosing the geographical location on the service tool. To book your appointment go to the [NHS Inform booking portal](#), where we have lots of appointments available at a range of locations and times.

Thank you to all staff who have already come forward to receive their COVID-19 booster!

WHO statement update

ARHAI Scotland have today updated NHS Boards in response to the WHO statement issued on 22 December 2021. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_Masks-Health_Workers-Omicron_variant-2021.1

ARHAI have confirmed that there will be no immediate update to the extant ARHAI COVID-19 Guidance <https://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/winter-2122-respiratory-infections-in-health-and-care-settings-infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-addendum/>

They would note that the WHO statement is based on limited evidence and has not involved the WHO guidance committee as was the case with their previous statement.

The WHO have not changed their position in terms of the route of transmission for COVID-19.

The statement has been issued on a global basis in response to the Omicron surge and takes account of countries which do not have established healthcare systems, staff testing programmes and vaccine programmes to the standard here in Scotland.

ARHAI have also stated that the evidence will be continually reviewed as will nosocomial data and changes made to guidance if necessary. The UK IPC cell will discuss this further on 30 December and an update issued thereafter.

We continue to encourage staff to carry out daily LFTs and to adhere to the guidance around social distancing and PPE.

RITA Award Winner 2021

Congratulations to Ward 39 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital who have won the Best use of RITA for Mental Health Services at the RITA Awards 2021.

Ward 39 is an acute admissions ward for people who are 65 years and older who present with acute functional mental illness such as psychosis, depression, anxiety, memory impairment and to a lesser degree dementia.



OT staff have been instrumental in using RITA successfully on the ward for both 1:1 activity and group work. It has been an excellent opportunity to use RITA and see its benefits which has included meaningful activity, social engagement, confidence building and building on therapeutic relationship

Well done to all the staff involved!

Cabinet Secretary's festive message to NHS staff

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care Humza Yousaf has issued his festive message to health, social care and social work staff, thanking them for all they do and urging them to take up the support of wellbeing services during a difficult winter.



[Click here to read the full message.](#)

A festive message from Caroline Lamb

Caroline Lamb, Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and Director-General Health and Social Care, has also issued her festive message to the NHS, social care and social work workforce, thanking them for their continued commitment and dedication throughout the ongoing pandemic and the forthcoming challenging winter.

[You can watch her video on Twitter.](#)

To bring our last Core Brief before Christmas to a close, we wanted to share a poem with you, entitled 'A CRT Christmas' by Roslyn Kingsley, Physiotherapist with East Dunbartonshire HSCP.

Thank you Roslyn for sharing this with us and on behalf of the Communications Team, we would like to wish all of our colleagues the very best for the festive season!

A CRT Christmas



**On Christmas Eve or perhaps before
When you've exited the last patients door
Bagged your apron, gloves and mask
Completed that final EMISS task
Wish your colleagues Merry Christmas
Go home and pour your favourite glass
Of wine or gin or beer or tea
And toast to you and me and we
Who've powered the COVID years
With strength and care (and a few tears)
Then focus on yourself and those
Who make you happy till it glows
Find peace and love in winter days
A New Years coming, it'll be ok
We'll face two thousand twenty two
With familiar faces and the new
Remember, even when life's hard
When covid plays another card
There always hope in the darkest hour
We'll stick together, that's our power
The wheel of change, it always turns
After the storm the sun returns
To you and yours, from me and mine
Have a wonderful family Christmas time**



Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19. If you have any questions about the current situation please check the FAQs first. If you have any further questions, please email: HR.Support@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

***Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).

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A full archive of printable PDFs are available on [StaffNet](#)