

Monday 31 October 2022

Winter vaccinations As you may have seen reported, uptake of the winter vaccines is lower among health & social care staff this year. We're keen to understand why and there's an opportunity for you have your say below. We also want to draw your attention to opportunities for vaccination in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire:

- From today, all vaccination clinics in **Aberdeenshire** are open for health & social care staff to drop in for vaccinations. If you work in a patient or client facing role, or you are eligible for vaccination due to your age, having a long-term condition, being an unpaid carer, living with someone who is immunocompromised, or you are pregnant, you can drop-in to any of the Aberdeenshire clinics – [a full list is available here](#). The drop-in opportunity is for health & social care staff **only**, at busy times queues may be closed and you may be asked to come back at another day/time.
- There are appointment slots for health & social care staff available **this week** at **Aberdeen City Vaccination Centre**. Call 0800 030 4713 to book your boosters. Please note, all Aberdeen clinics are appointment **only**, there are no drop-in opportunities for staff or the public in the city.

If you haven't had your jabs yet, we're asking you to spare a few moments to [answer this short question](#). It should take less than a minute, all responses are anonymous, and your answers will help us improve the programme in future. As always, if you want to give more detailed feedback, please get in touch via gram.communications@nhs.scot

Deactivation of 'The Management of the Workforce during and after major incidents including pandemic' policy [This policy was invoked](#) in the first stages of the pandemic; it will be formally deactivated tomorrow (1 November). The policy gave a framework to effectively manage both services and workforce, outlining the workforce arrangements which may be invoked for the duration of a major incident. Many provisions of the policy have naturally ceased to be used as the management of the pandemic evolved. One change to highlight is the period covered by a self-certification for sickness absence without the requirement for a fit note. **This will revert to 7 days, from the 14 days in place during the pandemic.**

Dr Gray's Hospital – developing the Plan for the Future A dedicated Dr Gray's Hospital Plan for the Future is being developed to set the direction for the hospital over the next ten years and beyond. Over 130 colleagues have already taken part in interactive workshops to share their ideas and aspirations for Dr Gray's and to tell us what is important to them. If you haven't done so already, here's your opportunity to get involved:

- You can complete the on-line staff [questionnaire](#). This is anonymous and should take less than ten minutes of your time. The survey closes at midnight on Sunday 13 November.
- Get involved, in person. Louise and Susie from the engagement team will be in the foyer of the hospital this Wednesday (2 November) from 1pm.

Orange Zone café, ARI We're pleased to say the Orange Zone café will return to its usual hours, opening at 7.30am tomorrow (Tuesday 1 November). Thank you to everyone for their patience and we apologise for any inconvenience.

Bereavement education conference NES are holding an online bereavement education conference on Thursday 24 November. This event is open to anyone working in health & social care who comes into contact with bereaved people. The conference is free, but registration is only open until this Thursday; [further information and a registration form are available here](#).

Pause for thought A little something for you to consider at the start of another week, taken from last week's Guided Journaling sessions:

What are you committed to, that you feel resistance to doing? What are you holding onto tightly, and what lightly? What's the difference between the two?

Tune of the day It's Hallowe'en, so let's enjoy the spooky goings-on [in the video for Everybody](#) (Backstreet's Back) by Backstreet Boys (EP).

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot